

THE MILITANT

SPECIAL FEATURE: PART THREE
Communism and labor's
transformation of nature

— PAGE 8-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Back UMW fight for black lung benefits

The following statement was released August 9 by Frank Forrester, a union coal miner and Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh.

The August 9 federal court decision rejecting the coal industry's challenge to new regulations on black lung disease is an important victory for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the National Black Lung Association, and the entire labor movement. My campaign supports every measure that defends black lung benefits and strengthens the health and safety of coal miners.

The decisive factor in defending these benefits, including the latest court ruling, has been the unflinching struggle that miners and their union have waged for decades—a struggle that sets an example for all working people in the fight for lifetime health insurance.

After four years of foot-dragging by the Clinton administration, the new Department of Labor regulations were signed into law January 19, the last day of William Clinton's presidency. The new rules represented a "modest"—to use the words of UMWA president Cecil Roberts—step forward for miners afflicted with this terrible respiratory lung disease caused by breathing coal dust.

Before the ink was dry on the new regulations, however, U.S. district judge Emmet Sullivan slapped an injunction in response to a lawsuit filed by the National Mining Association (NMA) that called for overturning the rules. Their legal challenge was

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Youth at int'l festival discuss fight against imperialism

BY ALFONSE MALONE
 AND NATALIE CHEVRIER

ALGIERS, Algeria—Nearly 6,500 youth from 110 countries around the world gathered here for the opening of the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students August 8. They came together to share experiences in the class struggle in their respective nations and gain political clarity on how to lead the fight against imperialist domination, which many described as a life-and-death question for working people worldwide.

"Let's globalize the struggle for peace, solidarity, development, and against imperialism" is the official theme of the festival, which takes place in Africa for the first time ever. Well over half the delegates come from this continent, especially North Africa, and from the Middle East.

The most numerous delegation, 1,100-strong, is from Algeria, the host country. It includes a large number of students from

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Protest Israeli war drive against Palestinian people

Washington's actions give green light to Tel Aviv's aggression

The Israeli regime is on an accelerated war drive to try to crush the resistance of the Palestinian people. Short of a major move by Washington or other imperialist powers to stop it, the escalation of the conflict is headed toward an all-out war by Tel Aviv against the Palestinians in the West

EDITORIAL

Bank and Gaza Strip.

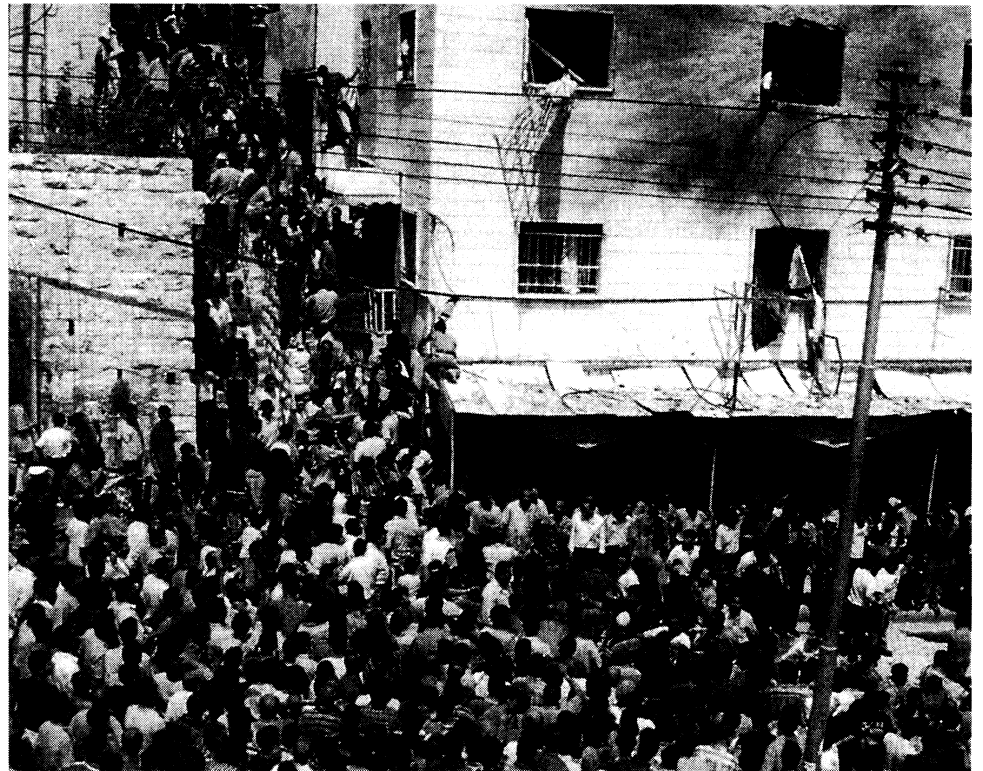
Such an assault will have ramifications across the Mideast, including the potential for Israeli military attacks against Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and possibly Iraq. Every government in the Middle East sees war approaching and is preparing militarily.

The Israeli rulers are preparing for a war that would be—as they have done in previous wars—a rapid, punitive onslaught using overwhelming force, in order to impose "peace" on their terms before any opposition can develop at home or abroad.

Growing layers of the ruling classes in Washington and the European imperialist powers are weighing in on the side of their cohorts in Tel Aviv, taking the position that the only way to bring "peace" is to wage a quick and brutal war against the Palestinians, out of which a new "settlement" can be established, possibly capped off by United Nations blue-helmeted troops coming in. As always, Washington, Paris, London, and Berlin let Tel Aviv do their dirty work against the Palestinians and Arab masses for them. And the U.S. and British rulers are already doing their part to prepare for war through the stepped-up bombings of Iraq this past week.

The *Militant* encourages working people who are resisting the employer and government attacks in the United States and elsewhere to begin speaking out and acting against this accelerating war drive, explain-

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Palestinians gather around West Bank building that was attacked by Israeli helicopter gunships firing missiles July 31. Tel Aviv has stepped up and intensified military assaults in preparation for a war to try to crush Palestinian fight for self-determination.

Israeli regime steps up assault as Middle East girds for war

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The Israeli government's drive to war against the Palestinian people has gathered political and military momentum with the occupation of important Palestinian sites in Jerusalem, massed-tank attacks and air strikes against towns in the West Bank, and the assassination of a number of Palestinian representatives. Tel Aviv and its backers have simultaneously stepped up their war

propaganda, depicting their aggressive actions as measures of "self-defense" against suicide bombers and "terrorists."

Palestinians have responded to each incursion with defiant protests, from attempts at armed resistance to a successful one-day strike. Their continued resistance is the target of the war preparations.

Washington, like its imperialist counter-

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Irish fighters resist London's pressure

BY TOM HARRIS

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—"The next day of the struggle is tomorrow. Let's all move forward towards freedom, justice, and equality," said Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams August 12 in a speech to a rally of nearly 10,000 people here. The action was organized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the deaths of 10 Irish political prisoners who had conducted a hunger strike in the United Kingdom's Long Kesh prison camp.

Despite inclement weather, the rally was a spirited celebration of the lives of the 10 freedom fighters and reflected the determination to continue the struggle for a united Ireland free from British occupation. Nationalists marched to the rally site in west Belfast from Catholic neighborhoods throughout the city, including from north Belfast, where pro-British loyalist thugs have carried out repeated violent assaults on Catholics in recent weeks. Participants in the rally included busloads from parts of the Irish Republic as far away as Cork in the far southwest of the country. Along the Falls Road, the main street in nationalist west

Belfast, lampposts were decorated with black flags and the "H" symbols of the so-called "H-Blocks" where London incarcerated the hunger strikers and other political prisoners.

In 1981, the ruling British Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher refused to concede to the demand of the hunger strikers to be treated as political prisoners and allowed the men to die. The prisoners' actions, however, won wide solidarity for their demands and the Irish freedom struggle. Their stand encouraged large mobilizations of nationalists in both British-occupied Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic. The British government ultimately accorded political status to prisoners arrested by its occupying forces.

Suspension of assembly

Two days before the rally here, John Reid, the British government's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, suspended for 24 hours the Northern Ireland Assembly and associated institutions established by the 1998 "Good Friday" Agreement, the second suspension in 18 months. The move was in-

tended to appease David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the main pro-British party in Northern Ireland. At the beginning of July Trimble resigned his post as First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly on the grounds that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) had refused to "decommission" its weapons. Trimble's demand was seen by nationalists as calling on the IRA to unilaterally surrender its weapons while the occupying British military forces remain deployed and heavily armed. The IRA has been maintaining a cease-fire after waging a military campaign to end British rule—an armed resistance the British were unable to crush.

On August 8 the IRA announced it had agreed to a plan with the International Independent Commission on Decommissioning (IICD), a body set up under the Good Friday Agreement, "to put arms completely and verifiably beyond use." Trimble dismissed the IRA's offer, demonstrating that in reality the unionists' demand for "decommissioning" is part of a rearguard action to stem the growing advances being made by

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Protectionism marks U.S. dispute over Mexican trucks — page 4

Washington steps up enforcement of curbs on travel to Cuba

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The U.S. government has over the past few months taken steps to more strictly enforce its existing restrictions on travel to Cuba, as well as other aspects of Washington's four-decade-long embargo against the Caribbean island.

The government's moves have particularly targeted those traveling to Cuba without a license from the U.S. Treasury Department. On July 13 President George Bush declared he would "enforce the law to the fullest extent with a view toward preventing unlicensed and excessive travel" to Cuba.

The Treasury Department has sharply increased the number of letters it has sent to individuals it accuses of not complying with the travel restrictions. From May 4 to July 30, it mailed out 443 penalty letters demanding payment of fines, an increase from the 74 letters sent in the previous four-month period from the beginning of the year. The threatened fines average \$7,500.

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), which has defended U.S. residents accused of violating restrictions on travel to Cuba, now has about 400 cases and has stopped taking any more. Nancy Chang, an attorney with the CCR, told the *Washington Post* that last year they received about 12 calls a month, and this year the number is up to about 20 a month. "The number of enforcement cases has increased over the last five months," she said.

One person targeted was a 64-year-old retired social worker in Chicago who took a bike trip to Cuba. The *Miami Herald* reports that after she returned from the island, Donna, who asked that her last name not be used, received a notice in June that the Treasury Department planned to levy \$7,650 in fines against her.

Anna Liza Gavieres, the CCR's Cuba Travel Program Coordinator, told the *Militant* in a phone interview that, while there has been an increase in people threatened with fines, no one has actually had a hearing. Some, refusing to be intimidated, have

sought legal counsel to oppose the threatened fine.

A number of people, however, have paid the fines after receiving letters. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), a division of the Treasury Department that enforces the travel ban, has collected \$1.9 million in civil penalties for travel violations in 379 cases.

"I know of one couple who has had their income tax refund seized," said Gavieres. She noted that sometimes it takes years for the Treasury Department to send pre-penalty notices to individuals. "In some cases, the Treasury Department turns the case over to its Financial Management Division, which acts as a collection agency."

Enforcement at gateway points

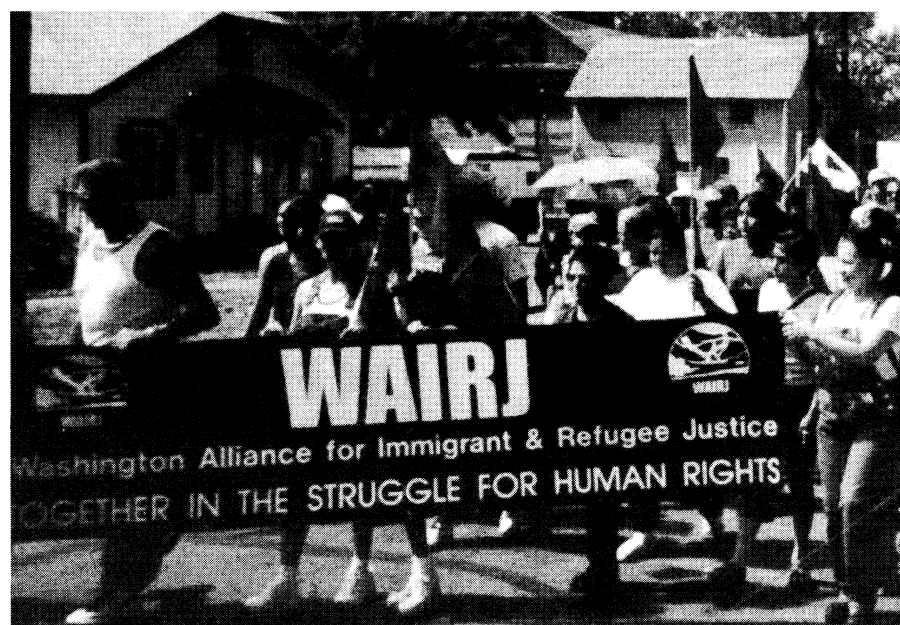
One focus of Washington's tighter enforcement of its travel restrictions are the gateway points in Mexico, Canada, and the Bahamas. Many U.S. residents going to Cuba without licenses travel via Cancun, Nassau, Toronto, or Montreal.

Travel to Cuba from the United States has increased over the past few years. According to the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, an estimated 173,000 U.S. citizens visited Cuba last year. Of those, some 22,000 citizens went to Cuba without a license. The number of people granted U.S. Treasury licenses for a visit to the island went from almost 51,000 in 1997 to more than 150,000 last year.

A substantial number of those traveling to Cuba are Cuban-Americans on legal family visits—about 120,000 a year.

Most U.S. residents are barred by the Trading with the Enemy Act from spending money in Cuba, which in effect imposes a travel ban. Under U.S. law today, residents can visit Cuba only by obtaining a license from the Treasury Department. There are three categories of exceptions to the travel ban: general licenses, specific licenses, and "fully hosted" travel. Those authorized to travel with a general license include government officials, "regularly employed"

Farm workers in Washington State demand amnesty for immigrants



Militant/John Naubert

More than 2,000 farm workers and their supporters marched through Yakima, Washington, August 5 demanding the right to legal U.S. residence for undocumented workers and in defense of union rights. They carried out a several-mile-long demonstration, which drew farm workers from throughout Washington and Oregon. Juan Núñez Castillo, a farm worker from Mexico who works part of the year in Washington and part of the year in California, expressed the increased confidence and militancy of many workers when he stated, "I'm marching for amnesty, better pay, and better treatment."

journalists, full-time professionals involved in academic research, and those visiting relatives in Cuba, as determined by U.S. officials.

The specific license, which requires an application and written permission from the Treasury Department, covers licensed humanitarian donations, professional research or meetings that do not meet the criteria for a general license, and religious activities.

Individuals traveling on a fully hosted basis are mandated not to spend any funds of their own inside Cuba.

Bush waives Title III of Helms-Burton

In mid-July Bush announced that, along with the travel restrictions, his administration would also enforce limits on cash remittances that Cuban-Americans send to their relatives on the island. He announced plans to expand funding and material support to opponents of the revolution inside Cuba and "use all available means" to overcome jamming of U.S. government broadcasts into Cuba.

Bush announced these measures at the same time that he waived Title III of the Helms-Burton act, which was signed into law in 1996 by then-president William Clinton to tighten Washington's four-decade embargo against Cuba.

Title III permits former owners of "Cuban assets" to seek damages in U.S. courts against non-U.S. firms that use property expropriated by workers and farmers after the 1959 revolutionary victory.

The measure authorizes the suspension of this provision for six-month periods if the U.S. president certifies to Congress that the waiver is "necessary for the national in-

terest of the United States and will expedite the transition to democracy"—meaning capitalism—in Cuba.

Bush's waiver of Title III continued the policy of the Clinton administration since the law was passed in 1996.

The Cuban government has joint ventures and economic associations with companies based in 46 countries, including in tourism, oil, mining, manufacturing, and agriculture. These joint ventures increased from 80 in 1992 to an estimated 392 this year, according to the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council.

In waiving Title III, Bush, like Clinton, has sought to avoid a direct confrontation with its imperialist rivals in Europe and Canada, which have complained about the "extra-territoriality" of the Helms-Burton law.

According to the *Financial Times* of London, "The European Union already prohibits EU-based companies from complying with Helms-Burton and has made clear it will challenge the law in the World Trade Organisation if Title III is activated."

In the conflict with their competitors, the U.S. rulers have preferred to use Title III as a threat to dissuade trade with Cuba rather than to actually implement sanctions over this issue.

Militant printing schedule

The next issue of the *Militant* will be a two-week issue. We will not print on August 30 and will resume our weekly publication schedule on September 6.

THE MILITANT

Protest U.S. bombing of Iraq

Working people around the world need to condemn Washington's unceasing bombardment of the Iraqi people. Read the 'Militant' to get the facts about U.S. military intervention in the Middle East and the Israeli war drive against the Palestinian people. Don't miss a single issue!



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U.S., British planes bomb Iraq in stepped-up attack

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the biggest military attack against Iraq in six months, 50 U.S. and British warplanes unleashed a bombing assault in southern Iraq on August 10. The Pentagon said it had bombed three Iraqi air defense sites, including a "communications node" southeast of Baghdad, which is part of a fiber-optic network. The attacks were carried out at mid-day.

According to the Iraqi News Agency, the bombings killed one person and wounded 11. An Iraqi spokesperson condemned the attack as "a cowardly operation targeting civil and service operations."

Three days earlier the Pentagon had dropped bombs in the northern part of the country. On August 14, U.S. Air Force F-16 jets based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait again bombarded targets in southern Iraq.

After the 1990-91 U.S.-led Gulf War, in which Washington slaughtered at least 150,000 Iraqis, the U.S. government imposed "no-fly zones" in northern Iraq in mid-1991 and in the south in August 1992, covering the majority of the nation's territory and violating its national sovereignty.

Since then the U.S. rulers have conducted a steady and at times massive bombardment of areas in these zones, from the end of the elder Bush's presidency, through the eight years of the Clinton administration, and up to the present day. One aspect of these attacks has been to allow the Pentagon to test and refine its satellite-based global positioning system, used to guide missiles to their targets.

The August 10 attack involved 10 Navy F-14 and F/A-18 warplanes from the USS *Enterprise* stationed in the Persian Gulf, as well as four Air Force F-16s and four Royal Air Force Tornados. They dropped laser-guided bombs on their targets.

Since the beginning of this year U.S. and British warplanes have conducted 29 days of air strikes against Iraq. Over the past two years, such attacks have killed an average of one Iraqi civilian about every other day.

These air strikes have become a permanent feature of Washington's ongoing military intervention in the Mideast. The U.S. big-business media ignores most of them or treats them as routine, seeking to numb public opinion to the brutality involved.

Periodically, the U.S. forces have unleashed a more intense attack. "We do so many of these, every so often, and then we do a Desert Fox," observed one of the pilots to a *Washington Post* reporter, referring to the four days of massive bombardment of Iraq in 1998.

The latest raid "came as the Bush administration began formulating a longer-term strategy against Mr. Hussein that is likely to include stronger air strikes and reinforced support for Iraqi opposition groups that favor dislodging him from power," stated an

August 11 *New York Times* article, referring to Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

In July Washington proposed a plan to the UN Security Council that would have provided some limited trade openings with Iraq, while further tightening the financial and military restrictions imposed on that country through UN sanctions, kept in force by Washington since 1990. However, this proposal had to be put on hold when the Russian government refused to back it.

Over the past several years, figures now prominent in the Bush administration have been advocating that the U.S. government pursue a more aggressive policy in aiding those seeking to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

Ten senior administration members, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Zalmay Khalilzad, recently appointed as the official in charge of Iraqi policy at the National Security Council, signed a 1998 letter to then-president William Clinton calling for implementation of "a strategy for removing Saddam's regime from power." The letter, which was spon-



Pilot surveys warplanes on USS *Enterprise* during 1998 bombing campaign against Iraq. Recent assault was biggest in the past six months. Air strikes, together with a brutal economic embargo, have been a constant feature of Washington's ongoing aggression against Iraqi people.

sored by the group Project for the New American Century, stated that although such an approach would involve "dangers and difficulties, we believe the dangers of failing to do so are far greater."

In a recent blow to Washington's efforts to isolate Iraq, the prime minister of Syria, Mustafa Mero, paid a visit to Baghdad just

24 hours after the August 10 U.S.-British bombing raids. Mero is the most senior official to visit Baghdad in 20 years. "Any attack on Iraq is an attack on Syria," he declared. Travel restrictions between the two countries have recently been eased, as the Syrian government seeks to expand its trade ties with Iraq.

Gov't stem-cell decision sparks debate

BY GREG McCARTAN

U.S. president George Bush announced he will end the federal government's ban on funding research on embryonic human stem cells, a measure adopted during the Clinton administration. In an August 9 address, Bush said he will approve use of government funds for research that does not involve destroying human embryos.

Stem cells have the ability to grow into any type of cell in the human body, leading scientists to see whether they can be used in treatments for a range of illnesses, including Alzheimer's, diabetes, and heart disease.

The stem-cell-funding debate has divided conservatives and rightists who oppose a woman's right to choose abortion. This is because it is necessary to destroy a microscopic human embryo in order to obtain the stem cells, undercutting the unscientific notion that human life begins at conception—an argument used by abortion rights foes as a key part of their campaign against a woman's right to control her own body.

In his televised address Bush said that by approving funding for research that does not destroy human embryos, he would not cross "a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos

that have at least the potential for life." The federal government will allot \$250 million for the research this year, he said, and will also cover experiments on umbilical cord placenta and adult and animal stem cells.

In his speech Bush said there are currently 60 lines of stem cells in existence, something that surprised scientists in the field. "Our leading stem cell researcher was under the impression that there were less than 10," Lawrence Soler of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research told the press.

A Harvard pioneer in stem-cell research said that if there "are 60 cell lines that are robust, growing well, and have the properties of human embryonic stem cells, that's news to me and that's good news."

Jonah Goldberg, editor of the rightist *National Review Online*, said Bush's decision "may seem like a great moral indignity to some. But it doesn't to me." He said he thinks "Bush did OK." Goldberg had earlier written that the "stem-cell debate is lost" because "the logic that denies experimentation on embryonic stem cells forces the acceptance of these embryos as human lives. And I just don't believe that the majority of the American people can be persuaded that embryos are human beings."

Kenneth Connor, president of the Family Research Council (FRC), called the president's action "troubling." The FRC says its mission is to "reaffirm and promote... the traditional family and Judeo-Christian principles upon which it is built." Connor said that in his statement Bush tries to distance himself from "immoral acts that resulted in the killing of embryonic human beings. But by casting such research in a positive light, he will encourage members of Congress to advocate additional research."

Bishop Joseph Fiorenza, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the "trade-off he has announced is morally unacceptable."

Many scientists said Bush's decision didn't go far enough. "The president's decision to limit federal funds to only those stem cell lines already in existence will severely inhibit our ability to unlock the huge potential of embryonic stem cells," said Michael Soules, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

A spokesperson for researchers at Johns Hopkins University urged the question be revisited in several years. "This issue really isn't whether you can get everything now but whether this is a step in the right direction. And it certainly is."

Irish paper reviews book on Playa Girón Recommends Pathfinder title on 1961 victory by Cuban working people

From Pathfinder

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas

In less than 72 hours of combat during April 1961 near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba's revolutionary militias, police, and armed forces defeated a U.S. organized mercenary invasion. Cuban working people showed it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds—and win. Forty years later the U.S. rulers can still neither accept nor extinguish this example to workers and farmers worldwide. In English and Spanish. \$20

Available from bookstores, including those on page 12.



The following review of *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas* appeared under the title "Repelling the Yankees" in the August 2 *An Phoblacht Republican News*, a weekly newspaper published in Dublin that supports the struggle for a united Ireland free from British occupation. *Playa Girón*, which contains speeches and testimony by Fidel Castro and José Ramón Fernández, is published by Pathfinder Press.

BY DOUGLAS HAMILTON

During Clinton's presidency, many in Ireland found it possible to ignore the murderous nature of US foreign policy, despite its glaring imperialist interventions, whether it be in Palestine, the Balkans, East Timor, Iraq, Colombia or wherever. With George W. Bush now resident in the White House, such duplicity is going to be far more difficult, if only because of the crass nature of his statements and actions.

Of course, there is one aspect of US foreign policy that has been unchanging—its continuing attempt to destroy the Cuban Revolution. Despite what is commonly be-

lieved, US aggression towards Cuba intensified during the Clinton presidency, with the 40-year-old economic blockade tightened considerably. And yet, the Cuban Revolution continues to defy all those who have been predicting (hoping for) its downfall for well over three decades. The accepted wisdom is that once Fidel Castro stands down the US will move to exploit the expected political hiatus and the Revolution will fall apart.

One option that will already be planned for is military invasion. If so, Bush's lackeys would be well advised to read this book, *Playa Girón*, about the last time such a move was attempted.

A varied collection of speeches, communiqués and testimonies from the time, by those such as Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, are presented. These well catch the knife-edged political tension and subsequent triumph of the momentous days in April 1961. Using fascinating military maps, photographs and a full chronology of the time, the book provides previously unpublished details surrounding the CIA-backed invasion and the subsequent defeat of the 1,500 US mercenaries at the Bay of Pigs.



The testimony to the People's Court in Havana two years ago by José Ramón Fernández, who commanded the main column that repelled the invaders and who is now Vice-President of the Cuban Council of Ministers, forms the core of the book. It is here that one gets a real feel for the bravery and conviction of the revolutionary Cuban forces, and their willingness to defend the socialist principles of the Revolution at any cost. As a result, and as Fidel Castro said at the time, "Yankee imperialism suffered its first defeat in the Americas." Is the Bush administration stupid enough to let history repeat itself?

In a world of continuing US imperialism, dressed up as free-trade globalisation, the Cuban Revolution is a unique and shining example of socialist development. It needs to be defended by all Irish socialist republicans. This book provides invaluable inspiration.

Grand opening in St. Paul celebrates new Pathfinder bookstore

BY TOM FISKE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Fifty people attended the grand opening celebration for the new Pathfinder bookstore on the west side of this city August 12. The feature presentation at the celebration was a talk by Steve Clark, the editorial director of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, on the "Working-Class Road to Peace and a Livable Environment." The local Socialist Workers Party branch and Young Socialists chapter share space at the premises as well.

The bookstore is located in a lively working-class district that includes businesses and restaurants, residential housing, and meatpacking and other plants. SWP and YS members have been involved with other workers in the area who are waging struggles for union representation at the Dakota Premium Foods beef slaughter house, against police brutality, and for immigrant rights. They have found a welcome reception from workers and young people to tables of revolutionary literature they have set up on street corners, and to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at factory gates.

Participants were welcomed by Karen Ray, a leader of the project to renovate the premises for the new store, and Miguel Olvera, a meat packer at Dakota Premium Foods and leader of the union-organizing drive there. "I want to welcome you to the first public event of our new Pathfinder bookstore," said Olvera. "It's a place where workers like us can come and get books and discuss the political issues. Workers will come here looking for solutions to problems we face."

"Moving the bookstore here will enable socialist workers and supporters of Pathfinder to have a political base from which to reach out to political fights and working-class struggles in Minnesota and the surrounding area," Ray said. Socialist workers will be able to concentrate their political activity in the workers district through street tables, keeping the bookstore open regular hours, and establishing a weekly Militant Labor Forum series that becomes known as an important meeting where central issues of U.S. and world politics are discussed each Friday evening.

"This beautiful new bookstore is the result of the work of many volunteers," Ray said. The main bookstore display room is spacious enough to hold the complete array of Pathfinder titles and many other books useful to working people in struggle today. "Some volunteers helped find this new location. Many helped in the construction work, including several with specialized skills in carpentry and electrical wiring that proved invaluable. Two volunteers helped

raise the more than \$3,000 needed for the whole project. This has been a truly broad effort by a number of supporters of the bookstore from different political generations and experiences."

A lively question-and-answer period followed the feature presentation by Steve Clark and reflected a range of struggles taking place in the Midwest. A leader of the fight by immigrants in Minnesota for their right to have drivers licenses spoke, as did a worker who had just returned from selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in the Omaha, Nebraska, area, where meat packers at the big Nebraska Beef plant will be voting in a union election August 16.

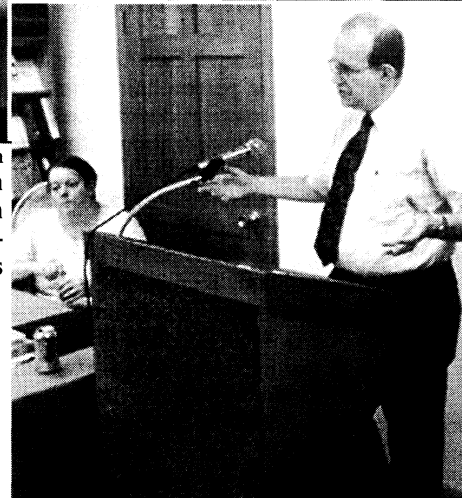
A meat packer employed at the Quality Pork Products slaughterhouse in Austin, Minnesota, drove up for the event. "Sometimes we want to solve things very quickly," he said of workers and farmers resisting the employers' assaults. "But it takes time to develop political consciousness within our class. The weapons we have are the books here," he said, pointing to the dozens of Pathfinder titles on the shelves.

Several people came to the meeting who had recently met a team of socialists selling literature on street corners in the area. A college student who had bought a subscription to the *Militant* at a literature table in front of a grocery store the previous day brought five working-class youth with her to the grand opening celebration.

One worker in attendance had bought a



Above, participants in Militant Labor Forum at August 12 grand opening of new location of Pathfinder Bookstore in St. Paul, Minnesota. Right, SWP leader Steve Clark gives feature presentation at inaugural event.



subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* at a recent demonstration against the police killing of Efraim Depaz, a young Mexican worker. He had visited the previous location of the Pathfinder bookstore and bought *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas* and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

Two Socialist Workers Party candidates for public office were introduced to the gathering: Tom Fiske, SWP candidate for mayor of St. Paul, and Edwin Fruit, the SWP candidate for city council in Des Moines, Iowa.

Informal discussion among participants

ranged over a wide variety of topics, underlining the point made at the beginning of the program about the eagerness of working people involved in struggles today to get together to discuss how to advance these battles and fight against the exploitation and oppression they face under capitalism.

Mexican truck dispute marked by protectionism

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As part of the ongoing debate in big-business circles over allowing Mexican truckers to cross into the United States, the U.S. Senate voted August 1 to approve a \$60 billion transportation bill that imposes stringent safety checks and insurance requirements on Mexican trucking companies. Such access by trucks from Mexico is one provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Citing "safety violations," sponsors of the legislation have included 22 restrictions that would delay open access on U.S. highways. The U.S. House of Representatives had already passed a measure in June that prohibits Mexican truckers from traveling beyond 20 miles into the United States.

U.S. president George Bush said he would veto the bill if it contains any such restrictions because they violate NAFTA.

President Vicente Fox of Mexico responded to the Senate vote by declaring at a news conference that no commercial U.S.

trucks will be allowed into Mexico "unless we reach a mutual, equitable, and well-thought-out agreement on the issue."

Under the NAFTA agreement between the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican governments, which took effect in 1994, long-haul trucks from Mexico were supposed to be allowed to travel into California, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico by the end of 1995 and throughout the rest of the United States in 2001.

President William Clinton, however, blocked those provisions and imposed the 20-mile restriction. A five-member NAFTA arbitration panel has ruled that Washington is in violation of the pact's trucking provision by imposing the travel restrictions.

Most of the debate over blocking the Mexican trucks from U.S. highways has focused on "safety" concerns. "There's going to be blood on the highway," declared Rep. Peter DeFazio, one of the Congresspeople who backed the 20-mile limit. The Teamsters union officialdom, tying the fate of truck drivers to the profit interests of the U.S. trucking barons, have carried out a protectionist campaign under the pretext that "unsafe trucks coming up from Mexico" could cause an "untold number of catastrophes." They and Democratic politicians have cited statistics involving inspections of Mexican trucks that supposedly prove them unworthy of crossing the 2,100-mile border and carrying cargo across U.S. roads.

What about safety of U.S. trucks?

Proponents of limiting Mexican trucks assert that 36 percent of those vehicles failed safety checks last year compared to 25 percent of U.S. trucks. They failed to mention, however, what should be done about those thousands of U.S. trucks that came up short on the safety inspection.

The day after the Senate approved its restrictions on Mexican trucking firms, the *New York Times* noted in an article that the safety statistics cited are "misleading or incomplete." It reports that "there appear to be little or no data to prove that Mexican long-haul trucks and truckers are far more dangerous than their American counterparts, experts say." Those trucks that cross the U.S. border are short-haul trucks used solely to travel short distances from terminals in Mexico to depots in the United States.

In fact, the *Times* article states, the U.S. "trucking industry has its own safety problems. Accidents that involve heavy trucks

have killed an average of 5,000 people a year for the past 15 years." And the 25 percent of U.S. trucks that failed roadside inspections were mostly long-haul trucks, it adds.

The bulk of the \$250 billion in annual trade between Mexico and the United States is conducted through trucking across the border. All goods crossing the Mexico-U.S. border are handled by short-haul drayage companies. Long-haul trucks transfer their trailers to short-haul trucks, which transport the goods across the border. If the 20-mile restriction was lifted, fewer than 20 long-distance trucking companies in Mexico would be prepared to enter the U.S. market to compete with thousands of U.S. firms.

Over time, U.S. trucking companies may buy up Mexican carriers, said Duane Acklie, chairman of the American Trucking Association, which represents 3,000 trucking firms.

Meanwhile, despite the Bush administration's pretensions about "free trade," the U.S. Commerce Department announced August 10 that it was slapping a 19 percent tariff on softwood lumber from Canada. U.S. lumber industry bosses claim the measure is needed to combat "illegal subsidies" provided by Canada's provincial governments to lumber firms in that country, reported the Reuters news agency. In a trade conflict that has been going for at least 20 years, they claimed the subsidies have caused U.S. mill closings and job losses.

If the duty is upheld, it would cost lumber companies in Canada an estimated \$2 billion a year in lost business. Last year Canada shipped 18.3 billion board-feet of softwood lumber to the United States, which was worth about \$6.4 billion and accounted for one-third of the U.S. market.

Canadian international trade minister Pierre Pettigrew weighed in on the side of lumber bosses in that country. He condemned the Bush administration for "bowing to protectionist interests.... On one hand they're talking free trade, on the other they're proceeding" with the duty. He said Ottawa would "continue to defend the rights of the Canadian softwood lumber industry."

FROM PATHFINDER

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

Jack Barnes

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. *In English, Spanish, and French. \$14.95*

CUBA and the COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION



JACK BARNES

In New International no. 11

Two programmatic documents of the Socialist Workers Party:

- **U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War**

by Jack Barnes

- **The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today**

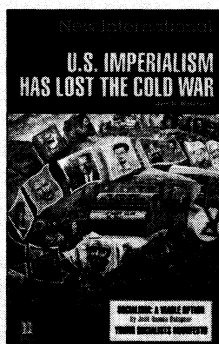
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THE MILITANT

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Mexico peasants demand government relief

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Thousands of peasants from across Mexico converged on Mexico City August 8 to demand government relief from the economic situation they face, which is driving many to the brink of ruin.

The farmers demanded the government take measures to guarantee prices for their crops that will enable them to make a living. They condemned delays by officials in paying out promised subsidies.

Carrying banners that read, "[President Vicente] Fox means misery," the small farmers called for modifying parts of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) covering the imports of grains and other products. They said the current trade pact exposes them more directly to competition from U.S. agricultural imports sold at lower prices than what farmers in Mexico can offer.

The protesters, many of whom had traveled into the city on crowded trucks, held rallies outside the buildings housing the agriculture, treasury, and interior ministries. Organizers of the action reported a turnout of 15,000 people from 16 of the country's 31 states.

Actions were held simultaneously in the states of Chiapas, Morelos, Nayarit, and others. In the state of Hidalgo protesters blockaded the streets of Pachuca de Soto, the state capital. In recent months peasants across the country have carried out a number of actions, including occupations of oil refineries, highway toll booths, and government buildings.

The protesters in Mexico City stressed the damaging impact of low-priced U.S. imports. "Fox promised change that would improve things for Mexicans, not a change that would increase misery," said Francisco Zazaleta, a coffee farmer from the southern state of Oaxaca.

He described warehouses in his region full of unsold coffee. "There are Mexicans dying of hunger. As much as they work, they can't earn enough to provide for their families," he said. World prices for coffee have dropped, devastating small farmers in Mexico as well as drought-stricken Central America.

Corn farmers explained that imports from the United States have increased by nearly 15 percent each year since the 1994 signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which opened up Mexican agriculture to greater competition from the United States and Canada.

Sugar cane growers, their problems compounded by a drought in northern Mexico, have been hit by Washington's protection-

ist measures and by imports of corn syrup sweeteners from the United States. Many peasants have been forced to leave their land and to look for work in factories in the cities or in the United States. About one-quarter of the population of Mexico makes their living from farming.

The protest marked the 122nd anniversary of the birthday of Emiliano Zapata, the central leader of the Mexican revolution of 1910-20. A key component of Zapata's revolutionary democratic program was a thoroughgoing land reform.

"Fox sees the values of the revolution as history, the past," said Constantino Canstanaeda, a 36-year-old tomato farmer who took a 10-hour bus ride from Zacatecas to join the action. "But I see the revolution in the land I work every day," he said, "and in the faces of my children, who will grow up to be farmers and have even less than I have now."

Fox has echoed the big-business argument that the reason small farmers go under is their own "poor management," while appealing to farmers to view themselves as businessmen with a stake in capitalism.

Speaking at a gathering of pro-government landowners in Mexico City, Fox downplayed the impact of the peasant demonstrations. He stated he would pay more



Peasants protest August 8 at ministry of agriculture in Mexico City. Hit by competition from U.S. imports, they demanded price supports and changes to "free trade" pact.

attention to farmers who work to improve their returns than to those who organize protests. He advised farmers to invest in alternative crops and new technologies as a way out of their problems, and called for "an entrepreneurial attitude in the countryside."

At the same time, Fox blamed the crisis on unfair competition from "developed countries," which, he pointed out, subsidize

their agricultural exports to the tune of billions of dollars. "This is no longer a local problem, but a world problem," he said, "one that we plan to bring up, as a country, before the World Trade Organization." Not only peasants but wealthier farmers in Mexico have been affected by the ravages of trade competition with imperialist agribusiness.

Nicaragua farm workers fight for jobs, food

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—A combination of drought and falling coffee prices has produced a massive human tragedy in the north of Nicaragua and in neighboring Central American countries. According to the World Food Program, more than 150,000 Nicaraguans need immediate food aid. Un-

Alamikamba and Prinzipolka, thousands of people are suffering from hunger.

Nicaraguan president Arnoldo Alemán continues to insist, as he has for several weeks, that the problem of *hambre* or famine is an "invention" of the opposition Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). At an emergency meeting in El

for the coming harvest. The big growers ridiculed his offer at an angry meeting here on August 6. Even this pitiful amount would not be available to the vast majority of coffee producers who work small plots with family labor. Fewer than 2,000 of the country's 40,000 coffee growers are deemed "creditworthy."

Nicaragua is in the middle of a presidential campaign, with a November 4 election that once again pits Daniel Ortega of the FSLN against the Constitutional Liberal Party, which was the party of former dictator Anastacio Somoza. The Liberal candidate, Enrique Bolaños, was Arnoldo Alemán's vice president before resigning to run for office. Pollsters here say the electorate is evenly split right now between the two candidates.

At a "Campaign Debate on the Economy and Poverty" held at the Central American University, neither campaign had much to say about the devastation in the north. Ortega's representative said a new FSLN government would introduce a tax reform in its first 100 days and promised "transparency," a buzz word here for honest government. There was no apparent difference between his speech and the Liberals' promise to "professionalize the public sector."

There are many giant, bright yellow, campaign billboards in the country bearing just the word "Daniel" or sometimes "Daniel" and "presidente." Some slightly smaller FSLN billboards include a political slogan. In one corner, much smaller than the name Daniel, were the words *la tierra prometida*, "the promised land." In the context of Nicaragua today it seemed like a cruel joke.



In response to drought and famine, jobless coffee pickers and peasant families block road near Matagalpa, Nicaragua. Banner reads, "We demand protection against hunger."

employed coffee pickers and hungry *campesino* families have camped out in municipal parks and confronted local officials and journalists with demands for jobs and food.

On August 9, laid-off coffee workers rallied in front of the Matagalpa town hall and announced plans to gather forces for a march to the capital. In some rural areas outside León, peasants have set up "hunger commissions" to distribute what food they can collect, with priority to the needs of children, the elderly, and pregnant women. Even before the crisis of the last few months, Nicaragua was one of the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Coffee producers' income plummets

Coffee producers received almost 40 percent less for their beans this winter than a year ago. Tens of thousands of seasonal pickers were denied part or all of their wages at the end of the harvest, and even year-round workers were fired and evicted from the haciendas. Then the drought hit, and food crops of corn, rice, and beans died in the fields.

On the western plain and in highland regions like Matagalpa, peasants lost virtually their entire summer harvest of food crops. "The rains never came," a woman from Matagalpa explained. "They gathered in the sky and then just passed us by."

Ironically, on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, only a little bit over 100 miles to the east, food crops were wiped out by flooding from heavy rains and swollen rivers. In remote Miskito areas like

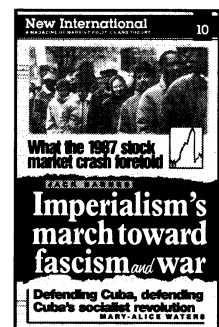
Salvador August 10, Nicaraguan minister of agriculture Genaro Muñoz dismissed as "false accusations" the idea that people were starving in his country. Alemán's only emergency measure has been to offer about \$30 an acre in emergency loans for coffee producers to begin the necessary preparations

for further reading from Pathfinder...

In New International no. 9

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution

Lessons from the workers and farmers government that came to power in Nicaragua in July 1979. This issue of 'New International' magazine recounts the achievements and worldwide impact of the Nicaraguan revolution. It traces the political retreat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front leadership, which led to the downfall of the revolution in the closing years of the 1980s. Documents of the Socialist Workers Party by Jack Barnes, Steve Clark, and Larry Seigle. \$14.00



In New International no. 10

Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War by Jack Barnes

What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold

Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters

The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon Trotsky \$14.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Australia auto strike

Continued from Page 16

riod, making further industrial action illegal on the grounds of damage to the national economy. Fines of up to \$10,000 a day against the unions and individuals and million-dollar damage claims were threatened if the strike continued beyond 3:00 p.m. August 7. But the workers were not fazed.

Simon Kokinovski, a steering machinist at the plant for 27 years, voiced the confident sentiment of many when he said, "Let them do it! We'll keep fighting."

The dispute became a major political issue in the lead-up to the national elections scheduled later this year, with Liberal and National politicians attacking "union power" and the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) links with the union movement. The ALP responded by accusing the government of "partisan" support for employers and failing to adequately safeguard employee entitlements.

AMWU officers in particular had tried to get their proposal for employers to contribute to a separate trust fund under union supervision, known as Manusafe, adopted during the dispute.

With some 600 enterprise agreements across the manufacturing, automotive, and aviation industries now due for renegotiation, the AMWU and other unions are pushing for the Manusafe trust fund to be at the center of collective bargaining with major employers.

Jayasinga, an AMWU delegate and negotiating team member, who works in ball joint machining at the plant and is of Sri Lankan descent, said in an interview, "It's been a hard fight but in the end 'people power' won. Now we stand together."

Ron Poulsen is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia.

Miami conference to defend five Cubans jailed by Washington

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MIAMI—The Miami Coalition to End the Embargo of Cuba is calling for a September 22 conference here to defend the five Cubans who were convicted in June of "espionage" and to deepen opposition to Washington's aggressive policy against Cuba.

"These convictions are a travesty of justice and a blow to democratic rights in the United States of America," states the coalition in its most recent mailing.

In the course of the trial, the five men's defense was that they were working to expose the terrorist actions against Cuba organized by counterrevolutionary groups based in Miami. These groups have acted with the complicity of the U.S. government.

Three of the Cuban citizens were convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They could get a life imprisonment. The other two were convicted of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent" and face possible 10-year sentences.

One of the five, Gerardo Hernández, was also convicted of "conspiracy to commit murder" in the case of two planes that were downed by the Cuban air force in 1997 when they invaded Cuban airspace and did not leave when warned repeatedly. Four members of Brothers to the Rescue died in the

shoot down. Brothers to the Rescue is a counterrevolutionary organization that supports Washington's war against Cuba and has made numerous provocative flights over the island. The prosecution based its case on the assertion that Hernández had given the Cuban government flight information about the rightist operation.

In violation of Fourth Amendment protection against arbitrary search and seizure, over a three-year period prior to the arrests, FBI agents broke into the homes of the defendants repeatedly, searching their belongings and computers. The prosecution's evidence consisted of information the federal cop agency claims it collected from encoded messages copied from the defendants' computer hard drives and alleged short-wave broadcasts between Cuba and the defendants.

Attack on Cuba and on rights at home

"We believe the FBI and its higher-ups in Washington have used this case to further the U.S. government's unrelenting 'Cold War' against Cuba," the coalition said in its letter. "One of their goals has been to attempt another political frame-up and smear of Cuba." This frame-up campaign has been carried out in the big-business media, which virtually convicted the five of spying before the trial began.

The letter adds, "the government's pros-

Workers in Boston sign up to put socialist on ballot for Congress



Militant/Carole Lesnick
Socialist workers collect signatures in South Boston to put meat packer Brock Satter (inset) on the ballot for U.S. Congress in the 9th C.D. In 10 days some 3,600 people signed up for the socialist candidate. Campaign supporters plan to file more than twice the required 2,000 signatures in late August.

ecution and convictions serve to remind us all that assaults on Cuba—which continues to offer an example to those fighting to end injustice, oppression, and exploitation around the world—go hand in hand with

efforts to undermine workers' rights.

"The trial and the media show around it tried to create an atmosphere where those who oppose Washington's economic war on Cuba, or stand up to other government policies, are at best intimidated and at worst branded as spies and are subject to extended incarceration. Now the top FBI agent in Miami, Héctor Pesquera, is threatening further 'investigation' of supposed spies for Cuba in the United States."

The statement by the Miami Coalition to End the Embargo of Cuba concludes, "We call on those involved in struggles for justice against police brutality, for defending the Charleston dockworkers framed-up by the police while safeguarding their picket lines, for ending all racist or sexist discrimination—and everyone who stands in defense of democratic rights—to demand justice for the five convicted in Miami and a halt to Washington's witch-hunt against 'Cuban spies.' Join us in a September 22 conference to discuss these issues and collaborate on advancing common goals."

In the latest development in this case, the five Cubans, who are awaiting sentencing and are locked up in a U.S. prison here, requested the right to meet with representatives of their government. The U.S. Attorney's office initially said three of them could meet with Cuban officials, but that the two born in the United States could not, even though they maintained Cuban citizenship. On August 1, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons approved visits by Cuban officials to all five men.

Mushroom workers win court decision backing their right to organize union in Pennsylvania

BY HILDA CUZCO

PHILADELPHIA—In a victory for mushroom workers in Evansville, Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court ratified their right to organize a union under the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act. The July 25 decision, which affects thousands of mushroom workers throughout Pennsylvania, is also a boost to a fight, which has been going on for seven years, by unionized workers at Kaolin Mushroom Farms in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, to win a contract.

Workers at Vlasic Farms in Evansville, organized as the Comité de Trabajadores de Campbell's Fresh (Committee of Workers at Campbell's Fresh, the former name of the company), filed for union representation in 1997. After union supporters lost the election by a 104-101 vote and the union filed unfair labor practices charges, the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) ordered a new election, which the union won.

At the same time, workers at Blue Mountain Mushroom Company, in Lenhartsville, Pennsylvania, carried out a unionizing campaign. Both Blue Mountain and Vlasic challenged the workers' right to organize on the grounds that they are not "industrial workers" but "agricultural workers" and thus not covered by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act (PLRA).

In July 1999, however, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court upheld the right of mushroom workers, who work indoors in a year-round industry, to unionize at both companies, rejecting the employers' argument that they are agricultural workers.

Last year Vlasic Farms was bought by Money's Mushrooms of Canada and filed for bankruptcy. Money's Mushrooms closed the plant and laid off all the workers in an effort to break the union.

The state Supreme Court decision upholding the Commonwealth Court ruling will encourage union organizing, according to Antonio Gutierrez, president of the Vlasic mushroom workers union and a mushroom picker.

"I think this is going to have a great impact," Gutierrez told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Before this, people were scared to organize because the owners said we didn't have the right to."

Luis Tlaseca, president of the mushroom workers union at Kaolin Farms and a picker for 17 years, welcomed the ruling and explained that they are still fighting to assert their rights as union members. In 1993, af-

ter a successful strike, the workers won a union. Tlaseca, along with other union activists, was fired by the company in retaliation. Last year Tlaseca won his job back.

"In Chester County over 5,000 workers pick mushrooms—including a growing number of women, who are now 3 to 4 percent of the workforce," said Tlaseca in an interview. "We have been fighting for years to get a contract. The recent ruling of the state Supreme Court is a victory for us." Tlaseca remarked that the decision encourages them to step up actions to keep the pressure on the growers until they get a contract.

Most of the mushroom workers in Chester County are Mexican-born. Kennett Square, the site of Kaolin Farms, holds nearly 80 fields that produce around 45 percent of the mushrooms consumed in the United States, and is known as the "mushroom capital of the world."

Michael Pia, president of Kaolin Farms, which employs 350 workers, sought to downplay the impact of the court ruling. He

told the *Inquirer*, "The ruling basically puts things back where they were. It doesn't affect the way we do business."

Fidel Vásquez, 28, who has been a mushroom picker at Kaolin for seven years, is a delegate of the Mushroom Workers Union and member of the Farmworker Support Committee, known by its initials in Spanish, CATA. He told the *Militant* he welcomed the latest court ruling.

So did Carlos Díaz, vice-president of CATA and a union delegate. Díaz was a mushroom picker at Kaolin until he was injured on the job. He has been fighting for four years to get workers compensation for the serious injury to his knee. "Accidents like this happen often because of safety violations," said Díaz. "One time a worker fell at around 9:00 a.m. but the supervisors did not report the accident until 1:00 p.m."

Tlaseca said the safety violations and abusive treatment by the bosses at Kaolin continue nonstop. "That's why we need the contract, and that's our goal now," he said.

Socialists put meat packer on Des Moines ballot

BY KEVIN DWIRE

DES MOINES, Iowa—Edwin Fruit, the Socialist Workers candidate for city council at-large, will appear on the city ballot in the fall elections, capping a successful three-week petitioning drive to win ballot status.

Fruit, a meat packer at the IBP plant in Perry, Iowa, is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Fruit was the first candidate to file for the ballot. On August 13 his supporters turned in 1,200 signatures, well over the required 666, to the city clerk's office, which the next day confirmed he would be on the ballot. The *Des Moines Register* printed a brief article on the socialist campaign.

By hitting the streets and talking to other working people about the growing resistance to the capitalists' attacks on our class, socialist campaigners have learned more about working-class fights going on in the city. While petitioning at a market frequented by Latin American immigrants, campaigners heard about a struggle at a local nonunion meatpacking plant where 10 workers were fired for protesting abuse by a supervisor.

Another worker, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

told socialist petitioners that his boss was firing union members as the expiration date of their contract approached. As a "right-to-work" state, Iowa outlaws closed shops and makes union membership voluntary as a way to undercut union organization.

Fruit visited the picket lines at Titan Tire, where United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 164 has been on strike since 1998. Titan had announced in early August that a "tentative agreement on the terms and conditions of a five-plus-year contract" had been reached. The USWA, however, replied that negotiations continue and that the union continues to press for "a back-to-work agreement that provides for the return of Local 164 members to their jobs at the Des Moines facility." Support for the Titan strike and other labor struggles and union-organizing drives is a key part of Fruit's campaign.

Fruit is also speaking out in defense of the rights of immigrants. There is a debate under way in bourgeois circles over the "New Iowans" program proposed by Iowa governor Thomas Vilsack, which would grant \$50,000 to each of three city governments "to help grow Iowa's population and help to reduce the state's work force shortage" by

attracting immigrant workers. The program was primarily crafted to benefit employers.

In one of the cities, Mason City, a right-wing group called ProjectUSA gathered petitions against immigrant workers. At a July 25 town hall meeting in Mason City, ProjectUSA regional director Paul Westrum said, "If we don't do something soon, you can kiss this country good-bye." According to the *Des Moines Register*, some at the meeting "contended that immigrants would bring low wages, crime and even disease if they came to the state." Others at the meeting said immigrant workers should be welcomed.

"My campaign is speaking out against the attempts to divide our class between U.S.-born and immigrant workers on behalf of the bosses," said Fruit. "Immigrant workers do not lower wages or cause unemployment—the bosses do."

The only way forward for the labor movement, Fruit said, is to embrace and organize workers born in other countries, who bring their experiences in struggle and help strengthen the entire working class.

Kevin Dwire is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149.

Tel Aviv accelerates drive toward war

Continued from front page

parts in Europe, has effectively ceased high-level attempts at resuming negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian representatives. The previous round of such talks in late 2000, sponsored by then president William Clinton, set the stage for Tel Aviv's accelerated push to war. In that summit, Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak placed a "deal" before Palestinian representative Yasir Arafat that would have left Tel Aviv in overall economic and military command of the occupied territories, including the areas falling under a Palestinian administration. Tel Aviv has since used Arafat's rejection of those terms as a prime justification for its accelerated drive to war.

The White House's recent responses to each new escalation of the conflict have been notably subdued. In contrast to *pro forma* calls for Israeli "restraint," Vice President Richard Cheney recently endorsed Tel Aviv's key rationale for its aggression in a statement expressing backhanded support for Tel Aviv's systematic assassination of Palestinian activists. "There's some justification in [Israel's] trying to protect themselves by preempting" terrorist attacks, he said.

"The Bush administration has detached itself from the peace process," said Khayri al-Uraydi, the Palestinian ambassador to Russia, on August 14.

Palestinian offices overrun

Recent actions by the Israeli security forces have hammered home the aggressive intentions of the Israeli rulers. On August 10, Israeli police evicted the occupants of Orient House, the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and other offices used by Palestinian organizations, following a suicide bombing in Jerusalem that took 16 lives. Hundreds of security personnel are

now stationed inside and around Orient House, a symbol of Palestinian aspirations for an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. While the police chief in the city said that the building would be held for six months, other officials said the occupation would be "for good."

"Israel's seizing of Orient House [was] intended to show that it controls all of Jerusalem, no matter what the Palestinians may think," noted the *New York Times*. Supporters of the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon applauded the action. "Taking over Orient House...caused real political damage to the Palestinians," said Alon Liel, former director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry. "It was the formal burial of the Oslo peace process."

Successful general strike

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian workers, merchants, and students observed an August 13 general strike called by the Palestinian Authority to protest the action. The stoppage was effective across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria. "The Israeli measures vis-a-vis Jerusalem, which is the red line for all Palestinians, cannot be tolerated," said Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

Three days earlier F-16 combat aircraft destroyed the Palestinian police headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah—the second time Tel Aviv has ordered these aircraft into action in four months.

An armored Israeli force converged on the city of Jenin in the north of the West Bank August 14. Palestinian officials reported that troops backed up by some 50 tanks came from three directions. In the course of several hours, they used bulldozers to reduce two police stations to rubble and occupied the house of the governor of



Demonstration for Palestinian national rights in East Jerusalem in June

the city before withdrawing. "There was resistance, but what can bullets do against tanks?" said Nimar Jaradat of the Palestinian police. An August 14 *New York Times* report commented, "That seemed to be the point that Israel sought to drive home today."

"Jenin became a city of bombers. This reason led us to attack," said the army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz. The Israeli authorities claim that recent suicide bombers came from the city, home to 27,000 people. Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert called for similar action to stop Palestinian gunfire from Bethlehem towards Gilo in southern Jerusalem. "There must be massive land action that will straighten out all that is going on in the area," he said.

On August 15 Israeli tanks massed outside Bethlehem and adjoining towns in another show of force. "If the violence continues, the Palestinians will lose more assets, and they have something to lose," Sharon said.

The Israeli defense minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, repeated the threat. "This is not a joke," he said. "The minute they cross the line and there is shooting at Gilo we will not sit quietly, full stop. There is a limit to what a country can take."

Later the same day Israeli soldiers dressed as civilians and driving a truck with Palestinian plates shot dead Imad Abu Sneineh, a member of the Fatah organization of Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir Arafat, in Hebron. Palestinians say that Tel Aviv's "liquidations" policy has claimed some 60 victims since last September. All the nationalist organizations have been targeted, and those who have fallen have ranged from prominent leaders to rank-and-file members.

"We should not exclude any action, including going one step further than what we have already done. The Palestinians should not feel immune from any action," Public Security Minister Uzi Landau, a member of Sharon's Likud party, told *USA Today*, which ran an article titled "Israel considers invasion—suicide bombings could prompt full-scale move into West Bank."

While few prominent politicians have spoken out against the government's policy, three Labor Party politicians did vote against the occupation of Orient House—including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a prominent minister. Those who have differed with Sharon in public have mostly accused him of showing too much "restraint."

Preparations by Mideast governments

The Israeli military plans calculate a death toll of hundreds of Israelis and thousands of Palestinians. Foreseeing an airborne attack, an artillery bombardment and a large-scale infantry invasion, they also attempt to take into account the response of governments in the Middle East.

Among those governments there is also a palpable shift in mood. The August 15 *Financial Times*, speaking of Egypt, noted the "uncomfortable fact that the region's largest country, in common with other players, has all but run out of ideas as it faces up to the bloodshed of the continuing Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the resulting anger of millions of ordinary Egyptians." Working people in Egypt overwhelmingly side with the Palestinians in their national struggle.

The country's envoy to the United States told Egyptian television that "what we seek to do in general is to explain the serious situation in the region to the U.S. administration and the consequences of this situation if matters are left as they are.... If calm is not restored, we cannot predict what might take place."

The Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmad Mahir, discussed the situation with his counterpart in Iran August 14, one of a number of such contacts among governments in the region. On August 11, Syrian prime minister visited the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the escalating scale of the conflict continues to fuel comment among bourgeois commentators in the United States. The *New York Times* noted concerns that "one way the crisis can turn is toward a

Continued on Page 14

Israel's wars against Palestinian liberation

Printed below are excerpts from the Pathfinder pamphlet *Palestine and the Arabs: Fight for Liberation*, by Fred Feldman and George Sayad. The piece describes two earlier Israeli wars—a six-day assault launched in 1967 and the 1973 war. Copyright © 1989 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. The subheading is by the *Militant*.

The Israeli rulers readied a military strike that they hoped would topple governments that had taken the strongest anti-imperialist stands, such as those in Egypt and Syria, crush the Palestinian struggle once and for all, and provide Israeli capitalists with expanded markets and a large pool of labor power that could be superexploited.

Confident of Washington's backing, the Israeli government launched massive bombings and invasions of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt on June 5, 1967. The surprise attack succeeded in virtually wiping out the air forces of those countries in the first hours of the war. Over the next six days, despite often bitter resistance, Israeli troops seized the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jor-

dan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

More than 200,000 Palestinian refugees fled the West Bank. Tens of thousands left the Gaza Strip as well. But the Israeli invaders avoided the indiscriminate massacres that had provoked the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes in 1948. The Israeli rulers' goal was not only to capture those parts of historic Palestine that had not been seized by Israel in 1948 but to capture the Palestinian population of these territories as well.

Of the newly captured portions of Palestine, East Jerusalem was annexed shortly after the war. The West Bank was officially renamed Judea and Samaria but was not formally annexed. It remained under military rule, along with the Gaza Strip. The future status of the Sinai, also under military rule, was left open. Over time, the Golan Heights, where some fourteen thousand Syrian Arabs live, became dotted with Israeli settlements and was formally annexed in 1981....

1973 war

After the 1967 war the Israeli regime waged a "war of attrition" against Egypt, bombing, shelling, and dropping napalm on

Egyptian cities. Following the defeat of the Palestinians in Jordan and a 1970 cease-fire that halted the "war of attrition," President Anwar al-Sadat began probing the possibility of an accord with Israel. Sadat had become president of Egypt after Nasser died in 1970.

In 1972 Sadat expelled Soviet military advisers from Egypt and sought Washington's help in getting the Israeli occupiers to give up the Sinai Peninsula. When the Israeli rulers showed no interest in a deal, he joined forces with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, who had taken power in a 1970 coup, to launch a war aimed at forcing Israel to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and the Golan Heights to Syria.

On October 6, 1973, Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal and entered the Israeli-occupied Sinai. Simultaneously, a Syrian force began moving down the Israeli-held Golan Heights. Egypt's ground defenses and air force blocked Israel's warplanes from establishing the command of the skies that they had achieved in the first hours of the 1967 war. On October 10 the Israeli military began counterattacking and the Egyptian and Syrian forces were slowly pushed back in heavy fighting. By the end of October, cease-fires were in effect on both fronts. More than 1,800 Israeli soldiers died in the war, in contrast to 806 in 1967. Many more Egyptian and Syrian soldiers lost their lives.

During the war the U.S. government airlifted huge quantities of arms to Israel, including at least seventy jet planes and 150 tanks. More than twenty cargo flights carrying U.S. arms landed in Israel each day.

During the war the governments of Arab countries began an embargo on oil shipments to countries, including the United States, whose governments backed Israel. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), made up of governments of oil-producing countries oppressed by imperialism, imposed higher prices. Through these and other moves, Middle Eastern states got more concessions from the imperialist powers and more control over their natural resources.

Although Egyptian and Syrian forces were driven back in the October war, their sharply improved showing over 1967 gave a big lift to the morale of Palestinians and other Arabs, and dealt a blow to the Israeli image of invincibility.

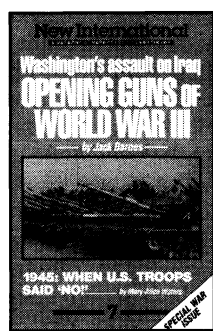
from Pathfinder

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

By Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, the growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. In *New International* no. 7. \$12.00

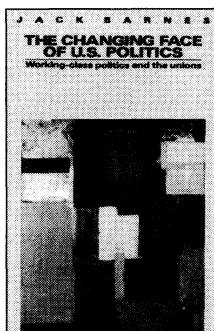


The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Unions

By Jack Barnes

The opening chapter of this book, "Capitalism's march toward war and depression," describes "the working-class campaign against imperialism and war carried out by hundreds of communists workers throughout the United States, leading up to and during the Gulf conflict." Also available in Spanish and French. \$19.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690.

Working people need to distinguish science from

Monopolists use technological advances, including Genetically Modified Organisms

Below is the third in a four-part series the *Militant* is running on "Communism and Labor's Transformation of Nature." The series was occasioned by a letter to the editor from Karl Butts, a farmer from Florida, commenting on an article in our July 2 issue, "Cubans celebrate 40th anniversary of farmers organization." That article, Butts said, provided a good summary of what Cuban farmers have accomplished over the past four decades as result of the socialist revolution and land reform in that country. But he was concerned that a sentence in the closing paragraph could be read to imply that communists lend credence to the concept that organic agriculture is "superior to other approaches" and even that "Cuba generally chooses not to use chemicals in agricultural production."

The first two parts of this series clarified that the anti-science prejudices of concern to Butts have nothing in common with the views of the communist workers movement. The series has reviewed Marx and Engels's materialist explanation of the relationship between human labor and nature, as well as recent discussions of the communist approach to science and human progress at national and international gatherings of the Socialist Workers Party. Last week's installment closed with remarks on these matters by one of the outstanding revolutionary leaders of the past half century, Thomas Sankara, president of the 1983-87 popular revolutionary government in the West African country of Burkina Faso.



BY STEVE CLARK

(Third of four parts)

The latest focus of middle-class hysteria in face of the progress of science and technology is the campaign against foods that have been cultivated from seeds that have undergone a transplant of a strand of genetic material, DNA, from a different plant species—so-called transgenic organisms, or Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Humanity, of course, has been modifying the genetic makeup of plants and animals ever since the dawn of agriculture and domestication. Otherwise there would be none of the cattle, pigs, horses, cats, and dogs we're familiar with today, nor the varieties of wheat, corn, vegetables, and other produce we use for food, fiber, and additives.

Those modifications, however, were the result of selective crossbreeding to produce



Campaign against Genetically Modified Organisms is latest focus of middle-class hysteria in face of scientific progress. Clockwise from top, Greenpeace warning that GMO ingredients are "likely to be found in up to 60 percent of processed foods"; illustration from magazine captioned "We are all lab rats in a scientific experiment"; "Frankenbucks" campaign of Organic Consumers Association; and book offering readers "A Self-Defense Guide" against GMOs. There is not a single documented case of humans harmed by such food or medicine, however.

new and wanted varieties and traits. GMOs involve the actual transfer of genes from one species to another.

There was no outcry against this scientific procedure (and largely still isn't) when it was first applied to the production of insulin—needed for the treatment of diabetics—in greater quantities and of higher quality than the previous procedure of extracting insulin from the pancreas of pigs and cows. There was little or no outcry in response to the development of a "biotech" vaccine to treat hepatitis B, as well as numerous other medicines over the past two decades.

Progress? Or 'Frankenfoods'?

With the application of genetic engineer-

ing to agriculture over the past six years, however, there has been a growing uproar from various bourgeois environmentalist groups and middle-class protest organizations.

Since the manufacture of GMOs is dominated by giant U.S. agribusiness, and such seeds are most widely sown in U.S. fields, the issue has also become a political football in the intensifying interimperialist competition for markets between Wall Street and Washington and its rivals in Europe and Asia. The United Kingdom's Prince Charles has become among the most prominent anti-GMO spokespeople in Europe. In a widely published speech in May 2000, His Royal Highness called for a re-discovery of "the essential unity and order of the living and spiritual world—as in the case of organic agriculture," as well as for the improvement of "traditional systems of agriculture, which have stood the all-important test of time."

(It's fitting to recall that the late Princess Diana helped spearhead another international bourgeois campaign, this one in support of an international treaty against the use of land mines. The Cuban government has refused to sign the pact, correctly pointing out that—in face of the aggressive and much more massively armed imperialist governments that are pressing the treaty—land mines are "the weapons of the poor.")

Banners and posters demanding "Stop Frankenfoods!" have become a staple among the melange of protectionist, nationalist, and anti-capitalist slogans raised by a spectrum of bourgeois and middle-class reformers, trade union officials, and anarchists and other petty-bourgeois radicals outside meetings of imperialist associations such as the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and the "G-8" governments. Their cry has been heard from Seattle to Prague, Melbourne, and Quebec;

from Washington, D.C., to Davos, Gothenburg, and Genoa.

The main use so far of genetically modified seeds in farming is to increase crop resistance to insects and weed-killing herbicides. The GMO seeds produce higher yields with less need for costly and toxic pesticides, less need for tillage that can increase soil erosion, and greater tolerance to drought. Seeds are also being developed that may produce rice and other grains with enriched nutritional value.

Since the first planting for the market of genetically modified crops in the mid-1990s, GMO seeds have become available for corn, cotton, squash, potatoes, canola, soybeans, and sugar beets. More than a fifth of all corn in the United States is now grown in this manner, and the planting of other GMO seeds is higher. There has been a 20-fold increase worldwide in acreage planted with genetically modified seeds, almost all in the United States, Canada, and Argentina.

No evidence of harm

Despite the near-hysterical pitch of the campaigns against "genetic pollution," there is not a single documented case of a human being anywhere in the world being harmed by food or medicine produced in this way. Nor is there a single example of dreaded armies of "superweeds" vanquishing fields and wetlands. By their very origins, in fact, genetically modified plants are very dependent on human care and cultivation; on their own, they are poorly adapted to nature "red in tooth and claw."

The nostrums advanced by various bourgeois and middle class proponents of "organic" agriculture are not neutral in their effects on the conditions and prospects for liberation of working people, either those in the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America or those in the imperialist countries.

Major environmentalist organizations, for example, waged a successful effort against the unquestionably toxic pesticide DDT, resulting in a welcome halt to its use throughout the imperialist world.

No comparable energy or resources, however, are now being devoted to campaigning against various imperialist governments and agencies that are refusing to fund the use of DDT in some 25 semicolonial countries where—applied in relatively small quantities—it is the most effective way to control mosquitoes that spread malaria. That disease kills more than 1 million people annually worldwide, most of them children, and recurs for a lifetime in those who are "cured."

Capitalism fouls things up

As with all creations of human labor, the products of science and technology are put to use by the capitalist exploiters to maximize individual profits, not to meet social needs. Without the mobilization of labor and its allies to fight for increasingly improved conditions, the employers, their governments, and their political parties act with utter disregard for the consequences to human health, safety, and the natural environment.

Because "individual capitalists are engaged in production and exchange for the sake of immediate profits," wrote Engels in "The Place of Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man," only "the most immediate results can be taken into account in the first place. As long as the individual manufacturer or merchant sells a manufactured or purchased commodity with the usual coveted profit, he is satisfied and does not concern himself with what afterwards becomes of the commodity and its purchasers." (*Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, p. 238.)

This is true whether that commodity is a Ford Explorer, Odwalla organic apple juice, a lump of A.T. Massey coal, a Boeing 757, a genetically modified soybean, or a hybrid ear of corn selectively crossbred a century or more ago.

In all these cases, the health and safety of workers, farmers, and the broader public alike are sacrificed on the altar of prof-

Capitalism's World Disorder

Jack Barnes

The social devastation, financial panics, political turmoil, police brutality, and military assaults accelerating all around us are the inevitable forces unleashed by capitalism. But the future capitalism has in store for us can be changed by the timely solidarity, courageous action, and united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. Also available in French and Spanish. \$23.95

Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

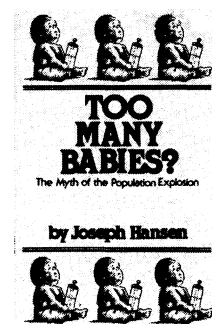
Frederick Engels

Includes "The Part Played by Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man," in which Engels explains that capitalist production, including agriculture, is concerned with only "the most immediate results." As long as the "usual coveted profit" is made, the capitalist is satisfied and unconcerned with human, environmental, or other consequences. \$17.95

The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Why communists act on the basis not of preconceived principles but of facts springing from the actual class struggle, and why communism, to the degree it is a theory, is the generalization of the historic line of march of the working class and political condition for its liberation. Also available in Spanish. \$3.95



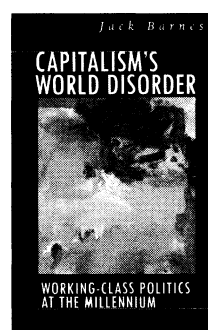
Too Many Babies?

The Myth of the Population Explosion

Joseph Hansen

With humor and scientific rigor, the author debunks the myth that humanity faces a crisis of overpopulation. Millions go hungry amid abundance, he says, because production and distribution under capitalism are driven by considerations of profit, not social needs. He defends the use of scientific and technical advances to increase the productivity of human labor and sustainability of agriculture. \$3.50

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



from its uses by capital

is, to squeeze more profits from farmers

its and "inspection" and "regulation" by agencies of a government that represents the class interests of big capital.

The 'seed police'

The biggest social issue raised by the half-decade-long advent of GMO seeds is the one least often pointed to either in the big business press or by various bourgeois and middle-class opponents of these methods. That is the way this innovation is used by giant capitalist monopolies such as Monsanto, Pioneer, Dow, and others to intensify the exploitation of working farmers.

In face of competition from capitalist farmers, small producers cannot afford to forego new methods and technologies that reduce their hours (and burdens) of labor and decrease materials costs. A working farmer who wants to continue tilling the land or raising livestock does not have the option of relying on horses rather than tractors, of not using a modern harvester or combine, of doing without fertilizer and pesticides, or of sowing seed with low yields.

That's why more and more U.S. farmers are using genetically modified seed. But they pay a substantial social price in doing so. In order to purchase the seed, they must enter into a binding agreement with the monopoly provider that they will not use the seed produced by the crop to sow their next planting and will not sell that seed to other farmers. The farmer is contractually bound to return to the company the next year to buy more patented seed.

Giant corporations such as Monsanto send inspectors—the "seed police"—to take clippings from farmers' crops to enforce these contracts. Monsanto has placed ads in farm journals warning that anyone who violates these terms is "committing an act of piracy [that] could cost a farmer hundreds of dollars per acre in cash settlements and legal fees, plus multiple years of on-farm and business records inspection."

By 1998 Monsanto announced it had already filed 475 "seed piracy" suits nationwide, and was actively pursuing 250 more based on some 1,800 "leads" in 20 U.S. states. The company had won judgments in the United States ranging from \$10,000 to \$35,000, driving already deeply indebted farmers closer to insolvency and bank foreclosure on their land.

In Canada, as of mid-1999 Monsanto had settled eight such cases out of court and was pursuing others. The grain giant won a lawsuit against a canola farmer in Saskatchewan whose crop was found to have plants grown from seed blown by the wind from a neighboring field.

The agribusiness monopolists are also patenting plants whose seeds are unable to germinate—a harvest of mules!

Laws of the market system

But genetically modified seeds are nothing special in this regard, either. They are simply one of myriad ways working farmers are squeezed between the rising costs of inputs they must purchase from the owners of one set of giant capitalist corporations, and the downward pressure on the prices they receive for their grain, livestock, milk, and other produce from these same monopolies or others.

This is another consequence of the laws of the market system that are fostering the spread of so-called "contract farming," which ties farmers who produce hogs, poultry, cattle, and a variety of vegetables to giant corporations that dictate every aspect of their procedures and to whom they are bound to sell their output at set prices.

In short, the spread of GMO seeds is one of many factors that is accelerating capital's relentless proletarianization of layer after layer of working farmers—in North America and worldwide.

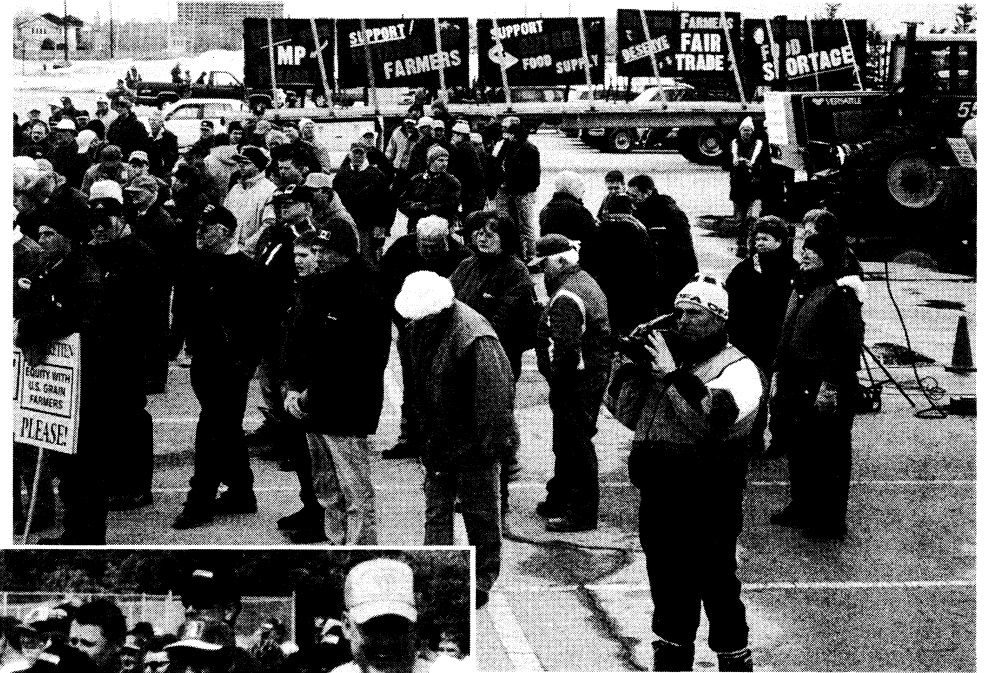
But it is no more in the interests of working farmers and their allies in the ranks of labor to oppose advances in the science of agriculture than it was for workers in the early 19th century to oppose the introduction of the power loom and other machinery. "If machinery is the most powerful

means of raising the productivity of labour, i.e. of shortening the working time needed to produce a commodity," Marx wrote in *Capital*, "it is also, as a repository of capital, the most powerful means of lengthening the working day beyond all natural limits in those industries first directly seized on by it." (*Capital*, vol. 1, p. 526.)

Not only did these new "labor-saving" devices enable capitalists to extend the hours of labor, intensify speedup, and throw



employed workers onto the streets, Marx pointed out, but factory work, "at the same time, does away with the many-sided play of the muscles, and confiscates every atom of freedom, both in bodily and intellectual activity. Even the lightening of the labour becomes an instrument of torture, since the



machine does not free the workers from the work, but rather deprives the work itself of all content." (*Capital*, vol. 1, p. 548.) That's why during the opening years of the 1800s, Marx said, some workers organized what became known as the Luddite movement and stormed through workshops

destroying the newly introduced machines.

"It took both time and experience before the workers learnt to distinguish between machinery and its employment by capital," Marx wrote, "and therefore to transfer their attacks from the material instruments of production to the form of society which utilizes those instruments." (*Capital*, vol. 1, pp. 554-555)

To be continued next week

New Pathfinder titles by Thomas Sankara

BY LUIS MADRID

Pathfinder Press has just added three new French-language pamphlets and one in Spanish to its revolutionary arsenal.

Published in early August, these four titles were produced in time to be sold at the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students. Young people at the festival who were hungry for literature explaining a revolutionary working-class perspective on the big questions facing humanity, purchased hundreds of Pathfinder books and pamphlets at the event, which was held in Algiers, the capital of Algeria (see front-page article).

Three of the new titles include speeches by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

One title in French is *Nous sommes les héritiers des révolutions du monde* (We are inheritors of the revolutions of the world). The 82-page pamphlet contains a selection of five speeches by Sankara given during the revolution.

In August 1983, an uprising in Burkina Faso established a popular revolutionary government led by Sankara. From the outset, this government sought to organize and mobilize the peasants, workers, women, and youth of the former Upper Volta—one of the poorest countries in the world—in a confident and ambitious effort to combat hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness, which had been imposed on them by imperialist domination.

The speeches include major excerpts from the Oct. 2, 1983, "Political Orientation Speech," which Sankara presented on behalf of the National Council of the Revolution; "Freedom is conquered," his October 1984 address at the United Nations General Assembly; and a speech to the First International Tree and Forest Conference held in Paris in February 1986. It also includes "French allows us to communicate with other peoples in struggle," also given in February 1986, at the first international summit of governments of French-speaking countries held in Paris.

These five speeches are a powerful introduction to the uncompromising political trajectory led by Sankara in advancing

the interests of the toilers during the four years of the revolution. In October 1987 he was assassinated during a military coup that put an end to the popular revolutionary government.

One week before his death, speaking about the legacy of Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban Revolution, Sankara remarked that although individuals can be killed, "You cannot kill ideas." Given on the 20th anniversary of Guevara's death at

the hands of the U.S.-backed Bolivian military, Sankara's tribute is included as the last item of the new pamphlet.

L'émancipation des femmes et la lutte de libération de l'Afrique and *La emancipación de la mujer y la lucha africana por la libertad* are editions in French and Spanish, respectively, of a March 8, 1987, speech published in English as *Women's Liberation and the African*

Continued on page 12

from Pathfinder

New pamphlet:

Nous sommes les héritiers des révolutions du monde

(We are the inheritors of the revolutions of the world)

Speeches and writings by Thomas Sankara, leader of the revolution in Burkina Faso, 1983-87. Contents include:

- A new society, free of social injustice and imperialist domination
- Freedom must be fought for
- Imperialism is the pyromaniac destroying our forests and savannas
- French allows us to communicate with other peoples in struggle
- Ideas cannot be killed: a tribute to Che Guevara



In French \$7.00

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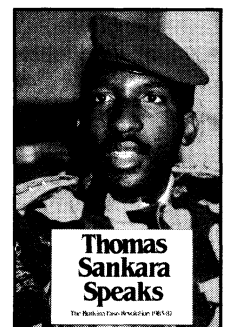
Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle

Thomas Sankara

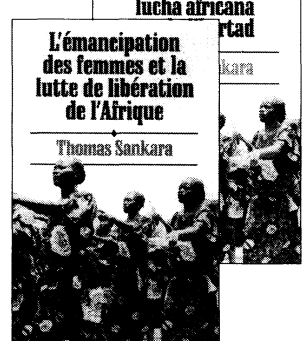
"There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women," explains the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. In English, French, or Spanish \$5

Thomas Sankara Speaks

Peasants and workers in the West African country of Burkina Faso established a popular revolutionary government and began to combat the hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness imposed by imperialist domination. Thomas Sankara, who led that struggle, explains the example set for all of Africa. In English \$19.95



La emancipación de la mujer y la lucha africana por la libertad



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Youth at festival discuss anti-imperialist fight

Continued from front page
the National Union of Algerian Youth (UNJA).

Other student and youth groups and individuals are also part of the delegation from Algeria, including 50 students of Berber origin and whose families live in Kabylia. This is a region to the east of Algiers where Berbers, the indigenous people of northern Africa, comprise the overwhelming majority.

According to several of these students, and Tariq Seghir, a UNJA leader, Algeria's National Preparatory Committee for the festival extended 400 invitations to groups and individuals in Kabylia to take part in the gathering. No Berbers currently living in Kabylia accepted them, however, according to these sources. Instead, they heeded the call to boycott the festival issued by social democratic groups that have been leading antigovernment protests in Kabylia since April.

A number of the students of Berber origin attending the festival said they had taken part in recent college sit-ins and other demonstrations supporting the language and cultural rights of the Berber people.

The second-largest delegation from Africa comes from Western Sahara. Its 420 members divided their forces between the four campus dormitories housing delegates from Africa, the Americas, Asia/Pacific and Europe, and the Middle East, respectively, to spread their message. They have organized solidarity tents, dinners, rallies, workshops, and cultural activities to expand and deepen support for their struggle to end the colonial occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco's army and Moroccan settlers.

Delegations from Angola, Namibia, and South Africa include several dozen youth each.

Besides Algeria, more than 2,000 delegates came here with help from governments in North African countries and the Middle East that have majority Arab populations. They hail from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, and Tunisia, among others.

Large delegation from Cuba

The second-largest participation is from the Americas, with approximately 1,300 attending. The delegation from Cuba of 750 is the largest in the world outside Algeria. The Cuban government provided three planes to transport these delegates here.

Youth and students from 56 countries are represented in the Cuban delegation. Most of these delegates—such as the two youths from Puerto Rico and individuals from almost every country in the rest of the Caribbean, one from Argentina, and a dozen from Central America—did not have sufficient resources to get here on their own. Their countries and organizations would not have been represented otherwise.

Among the delegates from Cuba, 250 are students from other countries, mostly the semicolonial world, attending the Latin

American School of Medicine or the International School for Physical Education and Sports in Cuba.

The second-largest group from the Americas is the 250-person delegation sent by Venezuela. Smaller delegations came on their own from Brazil (65), Mexico (35), and Haiti (4).

From North America, there are 14 delegates here from Canada. Four of these are from Quebec, and marched with Quebecois flags, painted with the slogan "Independence for Quebec," at the opening ceremony.

Nine came from the United States, two organized by the Young Communist League and seven by the Young Socialists. This group marched in the "July 5 Olympic Stadium" during the festival's inauguration with handmade signs demanding "Cancel the Third World debt," "U.S. out of Vieques now!" and "U.S. hands off Cuba," among others.

Hundreds are here from Asia and the Pacific. They include 150 from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 150 from India, 130 from Vietnam, more than 100 from Nepal, 12 from China, 6 from East Timor, 3 from Australia, 2 from New Zealand, and individuals from Kanaky (New Caledonia), Burma, Sri Lanka and several other countries.

Present from Japan are a group of Koreans resident in that country. This is the first time in decades that the youth groups affiliated with Japan's Socialist Party and Communist Party have abstained from participating in such a gathering.

Participation from Europe is smaller than from other continents. Nearly 70 are here from Italy, organized largely by Friends of Algeria. About 60 came from Germany, 33 from the United Kingdom, 30 from Greece, and 22 from Sweden. Smaller groups hail from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, and Norway, among others.

The delegation from Spain has nearly 50 youth, 40 of whom come from Catalonia. These youth marched at the opening ceremony with the Catalan flag, despite opposition from the half dozen delegates of the Union of Communist Youth of Spain (UJCE). The delegates from France are 15 Algerian immigrants. Some 120 delegates came from Russia. Small delegations from Armenia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia are the only ones from Central and Eastern Europe or the former Soviet republics.

'Imperialism is humanity's main enemy'

The festival's political program includes five "thematic" centers of discussion on topics such as "Peace and Security," "Democracy and Human Rights," and "Globalization and Development." Each of these have several sessions. Other events include forums in solidarity with national liberation struggles from Palestine to Western Sahara, from Puerto Rico to East Timor. A number of workshops are also planned to work through challenges confronting young workers and trade unionists, peasants and



Militant/Jack Willey

Fighters for independence of Western Sahara and international guests at the Dakhla refugee camp in Algeria in June. Led by the Polisario Front, the Sahrawi people are resisting the U.S.- and Paris-backed occupation of their land by the Moroccan regime. More than 400 Polisario youth delegates attended world youth festival in Algiers, adding their experiences and views to discussions on the fight against imperialist domination.

rural youth, women, or young artists and writers. The program also includes soccer games, chess and tennis tournaments, and other sports and cultural events, as well as sightseeing in Algiers.

The opening session of the first discussion on August 9 centered on "Peace and Security" was characteristic of the politics of the festival.

The president of the World Council For Peace, who resides in Greece, opened the program. His presentation focused on what he called "the NATO-ization of the world." Washington has given the Atlantic imperialist military alliance the green light to intervene not only in Europe but "anywhere in the world to advance American interests," he said, "without even seeking the permission of the United Nations Security Council in most cases." That's the main threat to world peace, he stated.

He praised "anti-globalization" protests from Seattle two years ago to those in Genoa, Italy, in July as the harbinger of a new, progressive movement and called for putting pressure on the imperialist powers to dissolve military alliances like NATO and agree to disarmament.

Most speakers who took the floor after the opening remarks, however, focused on the popular struggle against imperialism. The first speaker in the discussion was Jorge Luis Alonso Contreras, a member of the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba.

He began by pointing to the effort by Cuban communists to mobilize nearly 800 people from 56 countries for this festival as a contribution to the struggle against imperialism. He spoke extensively on the fight of the Cuban people to successfully resist 42 years of Washington's unrelenting economic war.

Despite the U.S. blockade, Contreras said, Cuban revolutionists will not give up an inch in defending their ideas, their revolution, and socialism. "It would be an illusion to seek devices or institutions that could guarantee peaceful coexistence between the exploiters and the oppressed nations. As long as the empire to the north of Cuba exists, as long as the imperialist system exists around the world, we can never lower our guard or soften our defenses. This is the only way to fight for peace and security."

"The U.S. imperialists and their allies in Japan are the sworn enemy of the Korean people and the number one enemy of humanity and of world peace," said Son Kyong Nam, speaking for the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Until the struggle to get the 40,000 U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons out of south Korea and reunify the Korean peninsula, and similar anti-imperialist struggles, are victorious, he stated, "we cannot achieve peace, we can't have a world without violence and wars."

Ismael Guadalupe, representing United Youth of Vieques, described the colonization of Puerto Rico by U.S. imperialism since 1898 and the struggle today to end the U.S. Navy's use of Vieques for bombing practice and to get the U.S. Navy out of Puerto Rico. He proposed a resolution be adopted to internationalize support for the

Vieques struggle "as a concrete contribution to peace."

Ogmundur Jonsson from the Young Socialists in Iceland spoke about the intensifying inter-imperialist competition between Washington and its capitalist rivals in Europe. This competition between the top imperialist powers over control of markets and raw materials has marked the last century and has produced two world wars, he said.

"The conflict between the rulers in America and Europe has now sharpened with Washington's drive to build the so-called missile defense system," Jonsson added. "In this lineup, smaller imperialist powers like Iceland have to choose this or that alliance. The rulers in Iceland have allied themselves more and more with NATO and Washington. Progressive youth in every imperialist country have to struggle together with working people to take power out of the hands of the exploiters and warmongers in each of the countries we live in, to reach the goals pointed to in this workshop, like revolutionists did in Cuba."

A representative of the General Union of Palestinian students spoke, stating, "We need to reorient our debate towards rehabilitating the national liberation struggles in the progressive youth movement to guarantee dignity and freedom of the oppressed nations and eventually peace in the world." This student leader also argued that the "anti-globalization" protests in Seattle or Genoa did not have an anti-imperialist character, and have confused many youth because right-wing groups are so comfortable in taking part in them, and cannot be pointed to as an example to follow.

Alfonse Malone from the United States explained why Washington's foreign policy—from Puerto Rico to Cuba to Western Sahara—is an extension of domestic policy. He described the toughening resistance by working people and small farmers in the United States to the offensive against working and living conditions by the employers and the government—from recent strikes and union organizing drives by garment workers and meat packers to the union organizing gains of the carpenters and struggles of working farmers. These are among the best allies of revolutionists in Cuba, of those fighting for national liberation from Puerto Rico to Korea, he said.

The "national missile defense" referred to by other speakers is not only aimed at achieving nuclear first-strike capability for Washington against its imperialist allies and Russia, he said. It is also part of the U.S. rulers' moves to justify the establishment for the first time of a "North American command," after prettifying its name, in order to put the rulers' armed forces in a better position to be used against working people inside the United States in the future. He ended by pointing to a speech by José Ramón Balaguer, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, in which the Cuban leader argues that socialism is the only viable option for humanity's survival.

A delegate from Cyprus, and from the Communist Youth of Greece, came back to the themes of the opening presentation to press for disarmament and dissolving mili-

Continued on following page

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Festival participants buy socialist books to read, study, discuss

BY NATALIE CHEVRIER
AND ALFONSE MALONE

ALGIERS, Algeria—"I like Thomas Sankara because he was a revolutionary leader in West Africa," said Sissako Oumar Tidiane, a student from Mali attending the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students here.

Tidiane had bought *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* earlier from volunteers staffing a large booth with Pathfinder books, copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This Young Socialists stand is part of the festival's "Cultural Exhibit" at the Houari Boumédiène University campus. That's where most of the sessions of the festival also take place.

Tidiane returned to the YS booth August 13 with a friend, who bought a new French-language Pathfinder pamphlet by Thomas Sankara, *Nous sommes les héritiers des révolutions du monde* (We are inheritors of the revolutions of the world). Both are members of a student association in Mali that has organized discussions on the ideas of Sankara and Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution.

Young Socialists and socialist workers from Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, France, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States have been staffing this booth and other similar displays with revolutionary literature here for the last week. As of August 14, they had sold 500 books and pamphlets to delegates and guests—unprecedented for this kind of international meeting. Of these, 220 are in English, 210 in Spanish, and 70 in French.

The pamphlet on *The Transformation of Learning* that Tidiane bought has been the top seller so far, with 34 copies sold—10 in English, 4 in French, and 20 in Spanish.

The new French-language pamphlet by Sankara is also among the top 10, with 18 copies sold. It was published by Pathfinder just before the festival—along with the Spanish- and French-language editions of another pamphlet by Sankara, *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. These were published in record time at the end of July, in response to the demand by several youth leaders building the festival to have such literature available in the languages they speak.

Traoré, who heads up the Ivory Coast delegation here, was among them. He took part in international meetings this spring to

prepare the Algiers festival and met YS leaders there. On August 8, the opening day of the festival, he bought six copies of the pamphlet *Nous sommes les héritiers des révolutions du monde* and a copy of the *Women's Liberation* pamphlet by Sankara to distribute to members of his delegation and others in West Africa. Traoré is the director of the Thomas Sankara Foundation, whose objective is to disseminate Sankara's revolutionary heritage.

Young Socialists have sold 29 copies of the pamphlet by Sankara on women's liberation in English, Spanish, and French.

The Pathfinder tables have become centers for political discussion over the first seven days of the festival. Youth from all over the world—especially Africa, Asia, and Latin America—have dropped by to buy books and share experiences.

Interest in Marxist classics—especially those published in editions with attractive covers and easy-to-read type—has been high. On August 9, for example, Camilo, a leader of Casa de la Juventud (Youth House) from Paraguay, ordered 30 copies of Pathfinder's *Communist Manifesto* in Spanish for the study circles his group organizes. Later that night, he bought another \$100 worth of books and asked for a meeting with YS leaders to discuss closer collaboration in the Americas between the two organizations.

Interest in North America class struggle

Young Socialists have found high interest for materials on the class struggle in North America and a Marxist analysis of recent world events. *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes is among the top three best-sellers, with 29 copies sold.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Delegates to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Havana, July 1997. This year some 6,500 youth from 110 countries gathered in Algiers for the 15th festival.

Seven delegates have purchased *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, also by Barnes. Samuel Goromido from Kanaky (New Caledonia), a colony in the Pacific struggling for independence from France, was one of them.

"Youth in Kanaky lack books on revolutionary struggle," Goromido said, explaining why he wanted this book. "After we win our independence, we will need to study books like this for our political education." He is a member of Palika, a pro-independence party in Kanaky, which offers classes to its membership—"classes that could be greatly enriched by books like *The Changing Face*," he noted.

YS members have sold 59 copies of *New International* and its sister editions in Spanish and French as well. The most popular among them is the issue featuring "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," with 16 copies sold between the three languages. This is a programmatic document of the communist movement that analyzes world political events in the aftermath of the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Developments in world politics during the festival have affected its program, as well

as Pathfinder book sales. The Israeli regime launched air raids with F-16s against Palestinian targets in the West Bank and Gaza, for example, and U.S. and British warplanes intensified bombings of Iraq during the youth gathering. In response, festival participants organized impromptu demonstrations August 11-12 and rallies to support the Palestinian national liberation movement and other anti-imperialist struggles in the Mideast.

This, in turn, sparked more interest in related Marxist literature. YSers sold 12 copies of the *New International* and its sister editions in Spanish and French featuring "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III" by Jack Barnes, and 10 copies of the pamphlet *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation*. Most of these were sold between August 11 and 14.

Thirst for understanding the Cuban Revolution—deepened by the participation of 750 delegates from Cuba—and its interconnection with the class struggle in other countries is also reflected in YS propaganda work here.

Young Socialists have so far sold 16 copies of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, 11 of *The Second Declaration of Havana*, and 7 of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

Miami socialist candidate joins picket line

BY ERIC SIMPSON

MIAMI—Michael Italie, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, joined a picket line of some 100 communications workers outside a Bell South installation here August 4. The unionists, along with thousands of other Bell South employees in nine southern states and Puerto Rico, were preparing for a strike against the telecommunications giant as their contract ex-

pired that evening.

On the picket line Italie expressed his solidarity with the workers' demands for higher wages, an end to speed up, and for better working conditions. One hour before the midnight contract expiration deadline Communications Workers of America officials announced they had reached a tentative agreement with the company and that there would be no strike.

Italie is a sewing machine operator at Goodwill Industries, where several hundred workers produce military uniforms for the U.S. government. Some of the socialist candidate's co-workers have expressed support for the campaign, including offering to translate campaign literature into French and Creole for workers of Haitian origin.

Socialist campaign demands

Italie announced his campaign in July at a well-attended Militant Labor Forum on the fight against police brutality in Miami. In an interview with the *Militant*, Italie said, "The socialist campaign is presenting a series of demands, such as 'Jobs for all—shorten the workweek with no cut in pay,' 'Increase the minimum wage,' and 'Cancel the Third World Debt,' in order to build solidarity among working people around the world who are facing rising joblessness, growing indebtedness, and the ever-present danger of ruinous bursts of inflation and financial panic. These demands and our campaign," he said, "are part of constructing a revolutionary movement capable of taking power out of the hands of the capitalists, establishing a workers and farmers government, and joining the worldwide struggle for socialism."

Italie supports Cuba's socialist revolution and has campaigned for normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba, the repeal of the Helms-Burton Act and other measures that are part of Washington's economic war on Cuba, and for the end of all U.S. government restrictions on travel to Cuba.

Italie's nine opponents include the current mayor and former cop Joseph Carrollo, and two former mayors. Italie will be on the ballot in the November after qualifying for an exemption to an undemocratic \$1,000 filing fee imposed on all candidates. After presenting his pay stub to election officials showing he earns \$5.15 an hour as a sewing machine operator, Italie was granted a waiver under an "undue financial burden" provision in the law.

Youth at festival discuss fight against imperialism

Continued from previous page

tary alliances like NATO. The overall thrust of this session, though, was decidedly anti-imperialist and pro-socialist, as was the case with a number of other sessions.

Clarity on anti-imperialist struggle

August 10, for example, was dedicated to the Americas. A combined forum in solidarity with the struggles of the people of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Colombia took place that afternoon. The panel included Maria Pili Hernández, representing the youth of the Fifth Republic Movement of Venezuela, the party founded by Hugo Chávez. She described changes in Venezuela's constitution and other measures by the Chávez government as an alternative example, a "third road," in the fight against imperialism. A few other delegates, from Colombia and Brazil in particular, echoed this view.

Otto Rivero, speaking for the leadership of the UJC of Cuba, outlined the gains of the Cuban Revolution and spoke of the need for socialist revolution in each of the countries of Latin America. Elizabeth Santiago from the Socialist Front in Puerto Rico read a statement that Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda sent to the festival, which complemented Rivero's remarks.

Two different perspectives were clearly, though not polemically, presented by the panelists. The first implied support for a regime that takes some measures to confront

imperialist domination without challenging the underlying capitalist social relations in the country, as the Chávez government has done. The second focused on a need for socialist revolution as the only way not only to win genuine national liberation but to defend national sovereignty and open the road for toiling humanity to confront its basic tasks imposed by history.

One of the last speakers during the discussion at this meeting, was Jacob Perasso, organizer of the Young Socialists National Executive Committee in the United States. Workers and farmers will struggle against the brutalities of capitalism, propelled by the lawful functioning of the capitalist system itself, Perasso said. He described the varied and geographically spreading proletarian resistance in the United States as an illustration of this point. The central challenge, Perasso said, is forging a working-class leadership in alliance with the toilers on the land, that draws the lessons of 150 years of struggle and recruits and trains young workers, farmers, and students in a cadre party—for which a revolutionary youth organization is a school—as the Bolsheviks did in the Russian Revolution of 1917.

In his summary remarks, Otto Rivero referred to some of the points by Perasso and reinforced them. Building a Marxist leadership with political clarity is necessary to lead a revolutionary struggle for power, Rivero said. He added that the class forces

that will lead such a revolutionary process to victory are the same as those in the Russian Revolution: workers, farmers, and soldiers, who won students to the side of the toilers. This is what will be needed in other countries in the future, the UJC leader said.

That day's activities ended with entertainment at the Verdun Theater, a large, open-air amphitheater in downtown Algiers. Its 6,000 seats were full for the event. Musicians, singers, and dancers from the Americas delegations—mostly from Cuba—performed.

The program included a few brief presentations by student leaders. One of them was Yanelis Martínez, a UJC leader who is also on the secretariat of the Organization of Caribbean and Latin American Students (OCLAE).

Speaking on the occasion of the 35th anniversary since OCLAE's founding, Martínez said the student federations represented in OCLAE and at the 15th world youth festival are part of an emerging anti-imperialist youth movement that is revitalizing OCLAE.

This student and youth movement has growing opportunities to link up with working people in a struggle for continental revolution in the Americas, she concluded.

Festival activities continued through August 16, with other days dedicated to the struggles of the peoples of other regions of the world.

Irish fighters resist pressure from London

Continued from front page

the nationalist movement towards greater equality and rights for Catholics. In light of this, and the affront of London in deciding to suspend the Assembly, the IRA withdrew its offer August 14.

The 24-hour suspension made it possible for London to avoid calling new elections to the Assembly, something both the British imperialists and the capitalist government in Dublin feared would lead to electoral gains for Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein won substantially more votes in the British general elections and local council elections this past May. They were able to overtake the pro-imperialist Social Democratic and Labour Party as the principal nationalist political force in Northern Ireland. Following the suspension and reinstatement of the Assembly, a six-week period of discussion is now opened up between the political parties, according to London.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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Garment District

Cancel the Third World Debt. Speaker: Barry Fatland, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 693-7358.

Upper Manhattan

British Troops Out of Ireland. Speaker: Ruth Harris, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m. 540 W. 165 St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Israel Out of the Occupied Territories. Fri., Aug. 24, 7:00 p.m. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Donation: \$3. Tel: (09) 276-8885.

In his August 12 remarks Adams blasted London's maneuver. "Behind the soft words what is really being opened up is a six- or seven-week period in which the British government and the unionists are going to try to put pressure on republicans to move to resolve issues on British government or unionist terms," he said. "I hear a British government that says a deal is almost within reach," he went on. "Does this mean they're going to pull troops from south Armagh, from south Tyrone, west and north Belfast?"

Although the regularity of military patrols has been curtailed, London still maintains a garrison of thousands of soldiers in highly visible and heavily fortified barracks in

Pamphlets by Sankara

Continued from Page 9

Freedom Struggle. In this speech, given on International Women's Day, Sankara not only explains the specific challenges faced by the struggle for women's liberation in the African continent, but offers a Marxist explanation of the development of class society. He describes the origins of women's oppression and charts a political course for the struggle to eradicate it.

The fifth new title is *Pathfinder est né avec la révolution d'octobre* by Mary-Alice Waters. This French-language pamphlet is a translation of *Pathfinder Was Born with the October Revolution*. A Spanish edition was published last year.

"Revolutionary-minded workers and farmers, and youth attracted toward them, don't primarily need interpreters or intermediaries," argues Waters. "They need the words themselves, presented accurately and completely, translated honestly and clearly," adds Waters, president of the New York-based publisher. "That's what Pathfinder does."

Promotional material on these titles is being sent to bookstores, distributors, libraries, and publications that handle French and Spanish literature. Pathfinder supporters around the world are also discussing promotional possibilities in their local areas.

Where Lumumba is playing

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Northern Ireland. They also keep up a panoply of surveillance installations and what the right-wing British *Daily Telegraph* described August 13 as "large budgets" devoted to spying operations.

In his speech Adams emphasized that nationalists would not "accept anything less than the right to be full citizens in our own country. I also hear the patronizing tone that the institutions have been stood down for only one day and now it's OK again. Well, it's not OK again. It isn't OK to have all-Ireland structures stood down," he said. "It isn't OK that Sinn Fein ministers haven't been accorded their rights and entitlement to do the job they were elected for. It isn't OK that the British government is trying to hold on to plastic bullets."

Meanwhile, pro-British loyalist terror gangs have recently stepped up their activities. In the past six months, according to

Republican News, there have been 150 pipe and blast bomb attacks on Catholic families, properties, and businesses. On July 29, a loyalist murder gang shot and killed 18-year-old Gavin Brett, a Protestant, who was attending a birthday celebration for a Catholic friend. "This was the third person to be killed [this year] because they were Catholic or suspected of being Catholic," said Adams at a press conference.

"There is only one question," Adams stated August 12. "Not whether we will have our freedom, but when we will have our freedom for all the people in this island." Adams stressed the need "to reach out to unionists" and said the answer "does not lie in number 10 Downing Street"—the residence of the British Prime Minister—"it lies with you," he told the marchers. "Freedom will come when people mobilize in this island like we did in 1981."

On eve of Communist League 7th National Congress International Educational Conference hosted by Young Socialists and Communist League

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—CALENDAR—

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Participate in a Socialist Summer School. The school focuses on study of *To the Rural Poor* and *What Is To Be Done?* by V.I. Lenin. Classes on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. July 11 to August 29. Special educational weekend August 18-19. 5237 N. 5th St. Tel: (215) 324-7020. Sponsored by Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party.

Evenhanded—"President Bush plans to give states new power to cut health benefits offered through Medicaid, the health insurance plan



Harry Ring

for the poor, in hopes [?] that they will offer coverage to those with no insurance at all."—News item.

Which is the bigger thief?—"One of the hottest items on the black market right now is powdered infant food, particularly those high-end mixes for babies with special

nutritional needs.... FBI investigators say the theft of powdered formula, which retails for as much as \$25 per 14-ounce can, is a multi-million-dollar business for international crime organizations that repackage the powder."—News item.

'Can't hear: did you say shoot, then ask?'—Los Angeles cops are bleating about the new \$21-million radio system installed in patrol cars by Motorola.

They complain that sometimes they can't understand what's being said, or can't hear anything at all. A reassuring Motorola spokesperson advised: "It will take some time for officers to get comfortable with the system."

Trains, brains, capitalism—"A...plan to dramatically improve

some of London's busiest rail commuter lines was postponed indefinitely.... The delay leaves nearly 100,000 passengers not knowing when their trains will be able to run on time, heaping more embarrassment on the government over the chaotic rail service."—The *Evening Standard*, London.

Oh—Philip Morris, which has a lock on the Czech tobacco business, was caught off balance by the public anger sparked by its report that premature deaths from smoking save the government medical costs, pensions, and housing. A company spokesperson explained, "We were just trying to show the implications."

Capitalist servant—For nearly a decade Vladimir Montesinos

served as spy chief for Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori, who is now back in Japan and immune from extradition. Meanwhile, Montesinos is in prison. The *New York Times* sketched the highlights of his career: Army officer; CIA hireling; lawyer for drug lords; spymaster for Fujimori. His last chapter: Alleged extortion; embezzlement; drug running; and—safe to assume—blows against fighting workers.

What's the fuss?—Officials in Calhoun County, Alabama, home of the Army's newest chemical weapon incinerator, refused to join a state campaign to teach people what to do in a nerve gas emergency.

Golden shaft—In New York, a

car is a nightmare. But if you own a million-dollar condo, you can wait in line to buy a parking condo. The spaces run as high as \$80,000, but it beats coming home and circling the block for a parking spot. And you can drive to work in midtown Manhattan where parking is maybe \$1,000 a month. So far, it's cheaper to take the subway.

We're probably late—Back from a New York visit, a friend told us that many of the 19th century tenement dwellings still seem fully rented, save one that's a museum where people pay admission to see how folks lived back then.

It occurred to us that these fire-traps could be marketed as quaint condos. Also, the hall toilet on each floor could be sold to occupants as a cooperative.

Striking Canada refinery workers reject concessions

BY ANNETTE KOURI AND JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Striking Petro-Canada refinery workers at terminals in Oakville and Mississauga, near Toronto, are standing firm in face of the company's union-busting.

The strike by the 475 members of Local 593 of the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union (CEP) began April 1. The stakes over the past four months have escalated as the company has intensified its attacks against the union.

"I'm ready to stick it out to the end. We're doing this for all labor," said striker Larry Gauntlett in an interview. "Labor's weak right now. Big business has eroded all these gains we made. But there's got to be a stop to it. I'm just filled with anger."

No negotiations are currently under way between CEP officials and Petro-Canada. On August 3 the workers at a Mississauga unit meeting dismissed out of hand the company's latest offer, which deepened the concessions demanded in the first offer.

A CEP leaflet explained that the new offer "contained rollbacks such as longer hours, wage freezes, mandatory overtime, layoffs, management wants to do members work, and still no pension changes."

What started out as a strike in solidarity with striking Petro-Canada workers in Alberta and British Columbia over the issue of pension parity with the salaried and nonunion employees has become a struggle to defend the existence of the union. Petro-Canada succeeded in breaking the bargaining chain when the workers in Alberta and British Columbia won pension parity and the Petro-Canada workers in Quebec stayed on the job.

"We thought we would be back soon after," said one striker. "But the company refused to let us go back and went after us. This decision was not made locally."

The company drive to undermine the union was well under way at the time of the walkout. Strikers report that before the strike about 180 nonunion "temporary" contract workers were working side by side with union members at the Oakville and Mississauga terminals.

"Basically it boils down to [the company

attitude that] 'I don't like your face and you're out of here'—and I'm only slightly exaggerating," said Larry Gauntlett.

A recent letter from the CEP to federal Minister of Finance Paul Martin underlined Petro-Canada's goals. The Canadian government is the company's biggest shareholder, with 18 percent of the shares. It states, "The tactics that the company has employed to date are those that can be wielded by a corporate entity with deep pockets; high-priced lawyers who show up to shut down legal proceedings, the use of replacement workers whose qualifications to work at an oil refinery are questionable, the 'shady' individuals hired as drivers to intimidate pickets who are involved in a legal strike, and stall tactics that are meant to place the membership in financial hardship."

The union's letter added, "The labor environment of Ontario...is skewed towards management and conducive to what Petro-Canada intends to accomplish—bust the union."

The company is maintaining some production with a number of the contract workers and management personnel brought in from across the country. A court injunction against the union limits to five minutes the time pickets can hold up tankers from leaving and entering the plant. A regular schedule of shuttle buses brings scabs into the plant, although some are for show, carrying few or sometimes no replacement workers.

Some of the strikers state, however, that production is far from up to full steam. There are a lot fewer trucks moving in and out by the sign that says "No left turn across picket line." The unionists point out that by looking at the back tires you can see that many of the tankers are carrying light loads when they leave the plant. A number of strikers estimate that the company has lost up to \$70 million dollars since the beginning of the strike.

Reaching out for solidarity

The unionists at Petro-Canada have reached out to other workers for solidarity. A "Boycott Petro-Canada" campaign has been reinforced with flying pickets at gas stations and banners hung by strikers on bridges over busy highways.

Petro-Canada strikers have bolstered the picket lines of Christie Bakery workers, who settled August 12. A strike by workers at Coca-Cola, which recently ended, also received picket-line support from the CEP strikers. Members of the Canadian Auto Workers union have helped out on the picket line by replacing CEP pickets when they have attended union meetings.

Oil and gas workers in Algeria, who are members of the National Federation of the Oil, Gas and Chemical Workers union, sent a solidarity message to the Petro-Canada strikers. The Algerian union "remains, rest assured, committed to all forms of solidarity action with the CEP in its struggle to stop the take-backs from the Ontario workers," wrote union general secretary Mohammed Bedreddine.

Petro-Canada operates in the oilfields of Tamadanet, in southern Algeria, and has announced plans for expansion. In a letter



Striking members of Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Local 593 mount picket lines, call for boycott of Petro-Canada products.

to Petro-Canada president and CEO Ronald Brennehan, Bedreddine said Petro-Canada's approach to the CEP would have an impact on the Algerian union's approach to Petro-Canada's Algerian operations.

"We are grateful for the assistance of our Algerian brothers and sisters," said CEP president Brian Payne. The CEP hopes Petro-Canada "will realize there are consequences, even beyond Canada's borders, for its antiunion actions in Ontario."

Twenty-four hour picket lines are being maintained at the Mississauga and Oakville terminals, covering at least six gates. The CEP web site contained a new item August 11 calling for volunteers to "upgrade and begin winterizing the picket shelters at the refinery gates."

Annette Kouri and John Steele are meat packers and members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Toronto.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

August 27, 1976

SAN ANTONIO—With the arrest of longtime Chicano activist Ignacio "Nacho" Pérez, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has aimed a blow at the Chicano movement in San Antonio.

At 6:00 a.m., July 23, INS agents arrested Pérez on the charge of "harboring an illegal alien." On the strength of this vague charge, Pérez sat in jail for four days until community groups succeeded in raising the exorbitant \$25,000 cash bail.

In a press statement issued on his release, Pérez blasted the arrest as a "clear-cut case of official harassment and an attempt to intimidate the Chicano community into non action...."

The charges against Pérez stem from a June 18 INS raid on Mario's Restaurant, where he was having lunch.

INS agents arrested a number of undocumented workers at the restaurant and charged its owner, Mario Cantú, with "harboring an illegal alien."

Cantú is also a well-known figure in the Chicano movement.

As Pérez was leaving the restaurant, a man who had asked Pérez for a ride was pulled away by the INS agents. Pérez points out that the charges against him are that "I refused to act as an immigration officer by demanding citizenship papers from a man that needed a ride home."

This crude attack is the product of a calculated campaign against those like Pérez who exercise their legal right to support their Mexican brothers and sisters.

La migrá's attack extends beyond the undocumented Mexican workers. All Chicanos are also affected.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

August 27, 1951

Behind the widely known news about the earthquakes, floods and famine in India is the lesser known, but even more important news that the mass of Indian peasants are seething with anger and revolt. Rural India has become a volcano whose eruption may not long be postponed.

On June 3 the mass ferment among India's peasants, workers and other poor took the form of a huge demonstration at Delhi, under the auspices of the Indian Socialist Party, the Hind Kisan Panchayat, a peasant organization affiliated to the SP and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha.

50,000 peasants, workers and students, wearing red caps, marched in a ten-mile-long procession from the banks of the Jumna River to the Imperial Secretariat at Delhi to formally make their demands upon the government and to present a "Peoples Charter," calling for bread, clothes and shelter to the hungry and the naked of India. Hundreds of thousands watched and cheered the demonstrators who shouted such slogans as: "Hungry and Naked India Demands Bread, Clothes and Shelter!"

The demonstrators had gathered from every part of the country. From Punjab came Sikh peasants who marched shoulder to shoulder with Muslim workers from the United Provinces. Peasant men and women came by the thousand from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, East Punjab and other provinces; many women walked on foot from areas as far as 150 miles from Delhi.

Strong contingents of workers from Delhi unions brought up the rear of this dramatic march.

Newly reissued by Pathfinder **\$3**

REVOLUTION
in the
CONGO

By Dick Roberts

Describes the struggle against Belgian colonial rule, the 1960 independence victory of the Congolese workers and farmers under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba, the role, under UN cover, of Washington and other imperialist powers in the overthrow and assassination of Lumumba, and the continuing freedom struggles there in the early 1960s.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Protest Israeli war drive

Continued from front page

ing the results and direction of Tel Aviv's military assaults, and bring the truth about the historic struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and a democratic, secular Palestine to as many workers, farmers, and youth as possible. Such a campaign can help combat the numbing effect that the step-by-step escalation of the conflict by the Israeli regime can have on working people.

Organizing now to get out the truth about the Israeli government's assaults and war plans, holding public educational forums and speakouts, planing protest actions that can rally the broadest possible forces in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, and campaigning to expose the root cause of the conflict—the refusal of the Israeli ruling class to grant the demands of the Palestinian people for self-determination and to withdraw from the territories it occupied in earlier wars of conquest—can have an impact among working people and ensure that this assault does not go unanswered. In this effort, Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* are invaluable tools through which thousands can learn the history and working-class approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Elements of the war drive

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has built up a sizable majority to back an Israeli war. Unable to crush the Palestinian resistance or to impose a settlement short of the aspirations of the Palestinian people, they are headed once again to defend their imperialist state by military means. Concrete elements of the acceleration of the war drive include:

- The occupation of Palestinian Authority buildings in East Jerusalem, claiming the area as part of Israel;
- Assaults on towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with more heavy armaments, bulldozers, helicopters, and fighter jets, backed up by troop deployments. These have inflicted immense destruction of property, a growing death toll, and mounting casualties among the Palestinian people, despite the Tel Aviv's claims of "pinpoint" targeting. So far, the Israeli military forces have pulled out after their incursions, but they are waiting for the destruction of a tank and its crew, or other such resistance by the Palestinians, as a pretext to respond with massive force. The military incursions into East Jerusalem and other Palestinian towns and cities are not "punishments" for Palestinian resistance. They are deployments in preparation for war.
- Widening assassinations of Palestinian Authority officials and leaders of Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). This official government policy is being carried out now on a daily basis: summary execution of Palestinians determined by Israeli military and government officials to be "guilty" of organizing resistance.

Sections of the Israeli and U.S. ruling classes began heading in the direction of imposing a settlement through war following the collapse of the sham "negotiations" organized by U.S. president William Clinton in the final months of his administration. Since then, U.S. official responses to Israeli military assaults on the Palestinians have become more and more muted; many are explicitly sympathetic to the "need" for Tel Aviv to "respond" to Palestinian resistance. The degree to which Washington has no alternative to offer can be seen in the fact that a much-publicized trip

by U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell to Israel in June produced no change in Israel's preparations for war.

Response in Mideast

As in its wars against the Palestinian and Arab peoples in 1967 and 1973, the impending assault by Tel Aviv may also be directed at Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. Although none of the pro-imperialist regimes in those countries seek a confrontation with Israel, any one of them could respond in self-defense to threats from Israel or in order to appear to be aiding the Palestinians.

The Egyptian government is massing its Third Army on the edge of the Sinai Peninsula. Syria has moved to assert its military prerogatives in Lebanon to prepare for war. Expanded ties have recently been opened between Damascus and Baghdad. And the Iraqi regime itself could respond militarily. And while Washington prevented Tel Aviv from striking Iraq during the 1990–91 imperialist war against the Iraqi people—even though Scud missiles were fired at Israel by Baghdad—this time there is no massive U.S. military presence in the region capable of overwhelming military action against Iraq. Air raids by the Israeli regime against Iraq would add another destabilizing factor in any war.

Tel Aviv's military response to any perceived threat from its neighbors or Iraq would be swift and disproportionate. The Israeli ruling class hopes to deal its blows to the Palestinians and Arab governments quickly, ending the war before protestations slowly start to come out of Washington and other imperialist centers and calls for UN blue helmets to be deployed increase.

For a democratic, secular Palestine

The state of Israel is a death trap for the great majority of Jewish people who live there. The present and future perspectives of those driving toward war illustrate that fact. This state serves only the interests of the tiny minority of superwealthy capitalists who are its ruling class, and the ruling classes in other imperialist countries. It offers working people who are Jewish only more insecurity, permanent conflict with the Palestinians, and frequent wars with other countries in the region.

The perspective of a secular and democratic state in the region—a slogan put forward by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the period of its rise—points the way forward for Palestinians, Jews, and all working people in the region. Around such a demand, they can unite against their common exploiters and class enemies: the Israeli rulers and their imperialist allies.

The immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces is an elementary step toward ending the bloodshed, and a prerequisite for the formation of a contiguous and independent Palestinian territory—itsself a necessary step in the struggle for a democratic, secular Palestine. Such moves would get the jackboot of the Israeli police and armed forces off the Palestinians' necks, and give them space and time to discuss their situation, to win new allies, including among working people in Israel who are Jewish, and to organize the next steps in their fight.

Israel out of occupied territories! Self-determination for the Palestinian people! For a democratic, secular Palestine! Stop the Israeli assaults!

Hunger for revolutionary books

The increased attraction to Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* by workers and farmers in struggle, as well as by many young people, has been striking in recent weeks and months. This positive response—the greatest there has been in many years—reflects a hunger for the lessons of working-class struggles and a scientific explanation of world politics both past and present. This is a good time to tap into this increased interest in

Israeli assault

Continued from Page 7

full-scale war, however that becomes defined." The *Wall Street Journal* quoted a "senior Israeli army officer," who said, "both we and the Palestinians are slipping down a slide toward all-out conflict."

The *Investor's Business Daily* sought to whip up backing for Tel Aviv in an August 15 editorial titled, "The two sides aren't the same." It stated, "The reality is that many Palestinians and Arabs...simply don't want to coexist with Israel. They want to destroy it.

"It shouldn't surprise us," continued the big-business journal, "that extremist Arabs believe Israel belongs to them, because they think all lands belong to them.... Spreading Islam by means of the sword has been seen throughout history."

Michael Ledeen, a contributing editor of the right-wing *National Review Online*, weighed into the issue with an August 14 column in the magazine titled "War Time." Scoffing at those who call for peace talks in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, he wrote, "Israel must now wage war against the Palestinians, and Great Britain will now have to resume its long battle against the IRA."

political struggles by expanding efforts to sell revolutionary literature.

Net sales of Pathfinder's revolutionary books and pamphlets over the first seven months of this year are 40 percent higher than during the same period in 2000. At the World Festival of Youth and Students in Algiers, where participants from around the globe—especially Africa, Latin America, and Asia—have purchased more than 500 books and pamphlets, Young Socialists report that Pathfinder titles have been flying off the literature tables they set up. Some of those who have purchased the books plan to use them in study circles or discussion groups.

Pathfinder supporters have also seized the opportunity to promote revolutionary literature at showings of the film *Lumumba*, which tells the story of Patrice Lumumba, the central leader of the Congolese struggle for independence and freedom from imperialist domination. Many of those who have watched the film have stopped by the literature tables set up outside theaters across the country and have bought not only Pathfinder's newly reprinted *Revolution in the Congo* but titles on a range of other subjects—from the Cuban Revolution to building a party of communist workers in the United States.

Workers involved in battles, such as coal miners fighting to defend their union and safe job conditions, have been attracted to Pathfinder's wide stock of titles on class politics. An increasing number have subscribed to the *Militant*.

This issue of the *Militant*, which presents a working-class explanation of the Israeli regime's accelerating war drive against the Palestinian people and Washington's complicity in that aggression, offers a good opportunity to get out the truth about the Mideast conflict. Many readers will also be drawn to the paper's broader reporting and analysis of developments in U.S. and world politics.

Black lung

Continued from front page

backed by the newly installed Bush administration. While campaigning for president in West Virginia, George Bush and Albert Gore told miners they would protect black lung benefits. It didn't take the new president long to renege on his promise.

The immediate effect of the injunction was to deny new claims for black lung benefits. More than 400 miners or widows file claims every month. Under the new rules, the UMWA estimates, the approval rate of black lung claims will increase from 7 percent to 12 percent—still a far cry from the early 1970s, when the majority of miners with black lung received compensation. It took a giant strike in 1969 by 40,000 coal miners in West Virginia to get black lung compensation in the first place.

The goal of the coal bosses remains to eliminate black lung compensation altogether. As one of the NMA's attorneys, Mark Solomons, put it, "black lung is largely a thing of the past. There is no need for the black lung program."

The NMA argues that the new rules are "unnecessary" and "costly," that they ignore "science" and "place miners' jobs in jeopardy." According to industry figures, the costs to the coal bosses would amount to 6 cents per ton of coal. In the past six months the price of coal has doubled to more than \$40 a ton.

The NMA was joined in the latest effort to overturn black lung compensation by the American Iron & Steel Institute, several commercial insurance companies, and Ohio Valley Coal. The latter company, owned by Robert Murray, is notoriously antiunion and the UMWA is currently locked in battle at two of Murray's mines in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The NMA said it would appeal the ruling. In typically cynical fashion, Solomons said in response to a question about whether the boss association would appeal: "You could bet your pension on it."

The court cut down the NMA's challenge to the definition of pneumoconiosis (black lung disease), in particular the NMA's opposition to including the part that says "any chronic restrictive or obstructive pulmonary disease arising out of coal mine employment." Sullivan found their claim that the Department of Labor lacked scientific expertise to define the black lung disease "completely without merit."

The court rejected the NMA's arguments for not limiting the amount of medical "evidence" the coal bosses can submit in opposing claims. In the past the coal companies have swamped miners with scores of medical reports, as well as subjecting miners to countless depositions. The new rules should help end this humiliating and dehumanizing experience. Each side is allowed to submit two medical reports. The ruling now limits the "purchasing" of medical evidence by the coal bosses and improves the position of the miners a few degrees.

It is a bald-faced lie to say that "black lung is a thing of the past." Ask any miner—isn't black lung one of the main causes of death in coal mining families? According to the UMWA, more than 1,000 miners die each year from breathing coal dust. At a hearing sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration in Morgantown, West Virginia, a union miner from Consol's Blacksville mine testified that in the past years, 26 miners there had been diagnosed with black lung.

Meanwhile, the coal bosses use cheating and fraud to falsify coal dust sampling. Since 1991, more than 160 coal companies or individuals have been criminally prosecuted for fraudulent coal-dust sampling.

The offensive by the coal bosses against miners is part of a broader drive by the entire employer class to go after workers and farmers, both in the United States and worldwide. Garment workers, meat packers, auto workers, truck drivers, and many others have direct experience with the bosses' moves to speed up production, extend working hours, slash wages and benefits, and drive down working conditions. This is not a case of capitalism malfunctioning. It's how capitalism works. It's how capitalists seek to maintain their profit rates—out of our labor power and the value that we produce as a class.

The employers' war against working people at home is extended abroad. Today we see this in the support by the U.S. rulers—Democrats and Republicans—to the accelerated war drive by the Israeli regime against the Palestinian people's fight for a homeland. Part of forging working-class solidarity is reaching out to fellow working people who are in struggle around the world. We share common interests and a common enemy—the handful of billionaire families who rule the United States.

During the recent petitioning effort to get the Socialist Workers campaign on the ballot, my supporters found strong interest and support for running a socialist coal miner for mayor. We found in this response a hunger for political ideas, a desire for class solidarity, and a widening experience of resistance among both miners and other working people.

More workers are looking to find ways to link up, to read, to discuss socialist politics as we fight to strengthen our unions.

As part of fighting for a working-class alternative, my campaign calls on the entire labor movement to defend and extend black lung benefits. The outrage that black lung is still the main killer of coal miners is simply one glaring example of an economic system that puts profit-making above the health and safety of working people. This is why the Socialist Workers campaign points to the need to fight for revolutionary change, for the need to fight for a government of workers and farmers.

Join us!

Che on working-class internationalism

The following excerpts are from the speech given by Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara at the Second Economic Seminar of the Organization of Afro-Asian Solidarity, held in the Algerian capital in February 1965. The full speech is published in *Che Guevara Speaks*, one of Pathfinder's current Books of the Month (see special offer below). It is copyright © 1967 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subtitle is by the *Militant*.

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Cuba is here at this conference to speak on behalf of the peoples of Latin America. As we have emphasized on other occasions, Cuba also speaks as an underdeveloped country as well as one that is building socialism.

It is not by accident that our delegation is permitted to give its opinion here, in the circle of the peoples of Asia and Africa. A common aspiration unites us in our march toward the future: the defeat of imperialism.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

A common past of struggle against the same enemy has united us along the road.

This is an assembly of peoples in struggle, and the struggle is developing on two equally important fronts that require all our efforts. The struggle against imperialism, for liberation from colonial or neocolonial shackles, which is being carried out by means of political weapons, firearms, or a combination of the two, is not separate from the struggle against backwardness and poverty. Both are stages on the same road leading toward the creation of a new society of justice and plenty.

It is imperative to take political power and get rid of the oppressor classes. But then the second stage of the struggle, which may be even more difficult than the first, must be faced.

Ever since monopoly capital took over the world, it has kept the greater part of humanity in poverty, dividing all the profits among

the group of the most powerful countries. The standard of living in those countries is based on the extreme poverty of our countries. To raise the living standards of the underdeveloped nations, therefore, we must fight against imperialism. And each time a country is torn away from the imperialist tree, it is not only a partial battle won against the main enemy, but it also contributes to the real weakening of that enemy and is one step more toward the final victory.

There are no borders in this struggle to the death. We cannot be indifferent to what happens anywhere in the world, because a victory by any country over imperialism is our victory, just as any country's defeat is a defeat for all of us. The practice of proletarian internationalism is not only a duty for the peoples struggling for a better future, it is also an inescapable necessity. If the imperialist enemy, the United States or any other, carries out its attack against the underdeveloped peoples and the socialist countries, elementary logic determines the need for an alliance between the underdeveloped peoples and the socialist countries. If there were no other uniting factor, the common enemy should be it.

Of course these alliances cannot be made spontaneously, without discussions, without birth pangs, which sometimes can be painful.

End imperialist economic domination

Each time a country is liberated, we said, it is a defeat for the world imperialist system. But we must agree that the break is not achieved by the mere act of proclaiming independence or winning an armed victory in a revolution. It is achieved when imperialist economic domination over a people is brought to an end. Therefore, it is a matter of vital interest to the socialist countries for a real break to take place. And it is our international duty, a duty determined by our guiding ideology, to contribute our efforts to make this liberation as rapid and deep-going as possible.

A conclusion must be drawn from all this: the socialist countries must help pay for the development of countries now starting out on the road to liberation. We state it this way with no intention whatsoever of blackmail



Che Guevara at news conference in Tanzania in February 1965. At right is Pablo Rivalta, Cuba's ambassador to Tanzania; at left, Juan Rodríguez González. "The practice of proletarian internationalism is not only a duty for peoples struggling for a better future, it is also an inescapable necessity," said Guevara at 1965 Afro-Asian Solidarity meeting in Algiers.

or theatrics, nor are we looking for an easy way to get closer to the Afro-Asian peoples; it is our profound conviction. Socialism cannot exist without a change in consciousness resulting in a new fraternal attitude toward humanity, both at an individual level, within the societies where socialism is being built or has been built, and on a world scale, with regard to all peoples suffering from imperialist oppression.

We believe the responsibility of aiding dependent countries must be approached in such a spirit. There should not be any more talk about developing mutually beneficial trade based on prices forced on the backward countries by the law of value and the international relations of unequal exchange that result from the law of value.

How can it be "mutually beneficial" to sell at world market prices the raw materials that cost the underdeveloped countries immeasurable sweat and suffering, and to buy at world market prices the machinery produced in today's big automated factories?

If we establish that kind of relation between the two groups of nations, we must agree that the socialist countries are, in a certain way, accomplices of imperial exploitation. It can be argued that the amount of exchange with the underdeveloped countries is an insignificant part of the foreign trade of the socialist countries. That is very true, but it does not eliminate the immoral character of the exchange.

The socialist countries have the moral duty to put an end to their tacit complicity with the exploiting countries of the West. The fact that the trade today is small means nothing. In 1959 Cuba only occasionally sold sugar to some socialist bloc country, usually through English brokers or brokers of other nationalities. And today, 80 percent of Cuba's trade is with that area. All its vital supplies come from the socialist camp, and in fact it has joined that camp. We cannot say that this entrance into the socialist camp was brought about merely by the increase in trade. Nor was the increase in trade brought about by the destruction of the old structures and the adoption of the socialist form of development. Both sides of the question intersect and are interrelated.

We did not start out on the road that ends in communism foreseeing all steps as logically predetermined by an ideology advanced

ing toward a fixed goal. The truths of socialism plus the raw truths of imperialism forged our people and showed them the path that we have now taken consciously. To advance toward their own complete liberation, the peoples of Asia and Africa must take the same path. They will follow it sooner or later, regardless of what modifying adjective their socialism may take today.

For us there is no valid definition of socialism other than abolition of the exploitation of man by man. As long as this has not been achieved, if we think we are in the stage of building socialism but instead of ending exploitation the work of suppressing it comes to a halt, or worse, is reversed—then we cannot even speak of building socialism.

We have to prepare conditions so that our brothers can directly and consciously take the path of the complete abolition of exploitation, but we cannot ask them to take that path if we ourselves are accomplices in that exploitation. If we were asked what methods are used to establish fair prices, we could not answer because we do not know the full scope of the practical problems involved. All we know is that, after political discussions, the Soviet Union and Cuba have signed agreements advantageous to us, by means of which we will sell five million tons of sugar at prices set above those of the so-called free world sugar market. The People's Republic of China also pays those prices in buying from us....

The fight against colonialism has reached its final stages, but in the present era colonial status is only a consequence of imperialist domination. As long as imperialism exists it will, by definition, exert its domination over other countries. Today that domination is called neocolonialism.

Neocolonialism developed first in South America, throughout a whole continent, and today it begins to be felt with increasing intensity in Africa and Asia. Its forms of penetration and development have different characteristics. One is the brutal form we have seen in the Congo. Brute force, without any respect or concealment whatsoever, is its extreme weapon. There is another, more subtle form: penetration into countries that win political independence, linking up with the nascent local bourgeoisies, development of a parasitic bourgeois class closely allied to the metropolitan interests.

LETTERS

Faith-based charity

I recently came across the following description of "faith-based charities" in England in the 1700s: "Of all the procedures [of committing infanticide] the most unobjectionable was simply to leave the infant at some church entrance or in a secluded doorway, in the hope that perhaps someone would rescue him. Most of these abandoned children died quickly of exposure or starvation.... In the countryside foundlings were ... assigned to the parish workhouses, which [were] called 'slaughter-houses of infants' because the mortality was well-nigh total. In order to save trouble and money parish

officers assigned the infants to paid nurses, who were universally detested and nicknamed 'killing nurses' or 'she-butchers' because no child ever escaped their care alive."

Robert Dees
Palo Alto, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged.

Indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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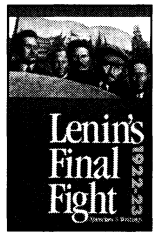
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Auto workers in Australia win strike

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Some 320 workers at Tristar Steering and Suspension, the vast majority of whom are immigrants, celebrated victory in their two-week strike after halting most of the car industry in Australia. The company, formerly TRW, had refused to guarantee basic accumulated benefits such as accumulated annual leave, long service leave, severance pay, and sick leave. The question of benefits for laid-off workers was of particular concern amid rumors of the plant's closure.

At an August 8 mass meeting here, the union negotiating team reported to cheers that the company had finally agreed to guarantee all entitlements at no cost to the workers. Tristar bosses had previously proposed deducting funds out of a pay increase, but eventually agreed to take out insurance with an A\$1.4 million down payment (A\$1 = US 52 cents).

These entitlements have become a major national issue. Workers expect these benefits to be paid in the event of layoff or company closures. Public sympathy has grown for sacked (laid-off) workers in this situation in the wake of a number of recent high-profile corporate collapses. According to Labor Party leader Kim Beazley, in the last year more than 120 companies have declared bankruptcy with workers losing all their entitlements.

"Everybody's upbeat," Jack Vouzakakis, a tool setter who has worked at Tristar for 13 years, said August 8. "We got our 10 percent [pay raise over two years], but the main focus was always to secure our entitlements."

Up to 12,000 auto workers were on temporary layoff without pay in Melbourne and Adelaide plants for more than a week as Ford, Mitsubishi, General Motors-Holden, and to some extent Toyota, ran out of parts in an industry that today relies on "just-in-time" supplies.

The just-in-time system, which arose out of intensified capitalist competition, means assembly parts are ordered as needed rather than stockpiled. This prevents capital stagnating unprofitably out of production or circulation, but also gives unions in supply industries greater strategic leverage.

Government attacks strikers

As the strike halted an industry worth A\$17 billion a year to the capitalists, the rulers began to feel the pressure. Anthony Abbott, the new minister for workplace relations in the conservative government, denounced the strikers for "industrial and economic treason," describing their action as being "against the national interest."

On August 7, two interstate union delegates from temporarily laid-off workers at Holden and Mitsubishi flew in to convey their support to the Tristar strikers.

Workers at Monroe, a car component company in Adelaide, also walked off the job August 2 in support of the union campaign to get employers to contribute 1.5 percent of their payrolls to Manusafe, a portable entitlements fund.

Responding to the government's accusations in front of the TV cameras August 7, Vouzakakis said, "How dare Abbott call us traitors for fighting for our rights? He is a crook [who] will retire with his entitlements guaranteed by us, by the workers." He pointed out, "This is going to affect everyone. If this company can get away with it, other companies will go down the same path. There has to be a law to stop companies doing this."

Cecilia Mayola told the *Militant* she had worked in a series of companies—Bendix, Kirby, TRW, and now Tristar—for 30 years. As the earlier companies were taken over, "each time the money [entitlements] was transferred, but this company has used it up. What kind of democratic country is it where poor workers who get \$10 an hour and fight for their rights, are condemned for it?"

Prime Minister John Howard attacked the "appalling timing" of the strike ahead of his talks in Tokyo August 3 with the head of Mitsubishi Motors. Howard offered more than A\$200 million in tariff and tax incen-

tives to the Japanese car corporation to keep open its factory in Adelaide.

Mitsubishi, which is suffering massive financial problems with worldwide pressures of overproduction, has warned that the plant will be closed if it doesn't return to profitability. Mitsubishi Australia lost A\$186.4 million last year.

Heavily immigrant workforce

Tristar is organized by several unions that formed a combined negotiating committee. About 70 percent of the workers are members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU), with the rest in the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and some in the Electrical Trades Union and the National Union of Workers. There are about 20 women workers in the factory. The workforce is heavily immigrant, with workers from the Pacific islands and many parts of Asia, the Middle East, and central and southern Europe.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA, or contract) negotiations had begun in June but stalled over company attempts to strip away the redundancy (layoff) entitlements. Workers told the *Militant* there were growing signs the plant was likely to close, with operations shifted to Adelaide.

Dennis Chand, who works in the ball joints section, said, "The main issue is to find out the financial side of the company and make sure our money is safe." He explained that the union ranks had initiated action with an overtime ban. "Two weeks later, there was an official union ban." Then there was a



Militant/Rob Gardner

Jubilant strikers at Tristar in Sydney, Australia, celebrate victory in two-week strike to defend entitlements.

"walkout for three days—July 25–27. When we came back on Monday, there was still no agreement so we took strike action."

Jimmy Hoose, a tool maker with the company for 15 years, told how the company "stole the money." When it came time to decide on strike action, "it was the immigrant workers who jumped up and said 'we're going out,'" he said, expressing respect for his co-workers born abroad.

Rocky Narain, a worker originally from Fiji who is of Indian descent, has worked at Tristar for 13 years in steering assembly. He explained how Tristar had taken over the former TRW. They ran down the workforce "from 430 to less than 350," he said. "The problem is they won't prove our money is safe. There are people who have been working here for 35 years. What will they get? Nothing!"

Chand said, "We are not fighting for a pay increase—this is about our own sweat money." Referring to the superannuation, or retirement, funding, he commented, "Government MPs are guaranteed their super, why not us? We're the backbone [of the country], not them."

Impact of the strike

Chand remarked, "We're in a powerful position—they can't get parts from overseas" or use a strikebreaking force because of the specialized nature of many of the parts and work. He added, "This is the first time in the history of this factory there has been a strike of more than a few days."

The Industrial Relations Commission tried to force a return to work by supporting Tristar's call to end the bargaining pe-

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British Columbia gov't orders end of strike

BY JOE YATES

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—The provincial legislature here adopted a law August 1 forcing striking transit workers back to work and imposing a contract on them. The 4,000 members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) and of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) walked out on April 1. The strike lasted 123 days.

The central issues in the strike were the employers' drive to hire part-time drivers and to contract out work. The new law continues to permit contracting out. The union, however, has a case before the Labor Relations Board to try to establish that Translink and not its subsidiary, the Coast Mountain Bus Company, is the true employer. If the union wins the case it will be more difficult for the employer to contract out.

A joint union-management committee will be set up in an effort to reach an agreement on the introduction of part-time work. If there is no agreement the question will go to binding arbitration to be settled by the end of this year. The workers will get an 8.5 percent wage increase over three years and a \$1,000 signing bonus.

On the issues of part-time work and wages, the law implements a mediator's report that CAW union members accepted June 19 by a 90 percent majority. Coast Mountain refused to accept the mediator's proposal. From that point on it became clearer who was responsible for the transit service being shut down.

Commenting on the end of the strike and the government's decision on the contract,

Ruth Ritchey, a CAW picket captain and bus driver, said, "It's favorable. They recognized that the mediator's recommendations are viable and need to go to committee." James Johnson, who was part of the union hardship committee at the Oakridge Center thought the outcome was not good. "We were legislated back to work with the same report as [mediator] Vince Ready proposed on June 14. We were out for seven weeks for nothing," he said.

Ritchey thought the government intervention was necessary in this situation because "Translink is unaccountable and the public was being held ransom." Johnson explained that many of the unionists are short of money and some lost their homes. "There is a bitter taste in terms of the attitude of the company. We will go out again if we have to," he remarked. According to Ritchey, "The drivers are united as a stronger force and loyalty to the company has waned."

The union received \$94,000 in donations from unions across the country during the strike. The transit workers organized several rallies and took their case to the Translink Board and City Council in an effort to win public support.

In the case of the OPEIU, the law imposes 30 days of negotiations after which if there is no agreement the contract will go to binding arbitration or will be imposed directly by the government.

The leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP) in British Columbia, Joy MacPhail, said she was happy with the law but that the government could have ended the bus strike weeks ago. The NDP is a social democratic

party based on the unions.

This is the second time the newly elected provincial Liberal government has implemented back-to-work legislation here. The Liberals won 77 out of 79 seats on May 16. The other two seats are held by the NDP.

Antistrike moves against HSA, nurses

The first time the provincial legislature voted on an anti-strike law was June 20. It imposed a 60-day cooling-off period on 23,000 nurses and members of the Health Sciences Association (HSA) who are both fighting for a new contract. The law imposed an end to the nurses' overtime ban and put an end to the HSA strike that had begun the day before.

On August 9, for a third time the Liberal government adopted a law imposing a contract on nurses and the members of the HSA. The HSA organizes 11,000 X-ray technicians, physiotherapists, pharmacists and other professionals. The law incorporates the latest proposals from the employers, which the nurses had rejected by 96 percent. Under the imposed settlement, nurses will receive wage increases of 23.5 percent over three years. Health Sciences workers were given increases of 5.5 percent to 14.25 percent, also over three years.

On August 8 and the following day hundreds of nurses at hospitals and health-care centers held a job action, not officially called by the union, to express their anger at the government's forced settlement. According to the British Columbia Nurses' Union, 5,000 nurses have signed letters of resignation.